

SELF-HELP

Self-help is the essence of the Co-operative Movement.

The Movement encourages all men, regardless of nationality, race or creed, to work together for their mutual advantage.

In Manitoba, 33,000 farmers have demonstrated that self-help co-operation works and pays.

MANITOBA POOL ELEVATORS

MUSKRATS

The Season's Best
Cash Crop

FOR HIGHEST PRICES

Ship or Bring All Your Fur to

Hudson's Bay Company.

INCORPORATED 2ND MAY 1870.

RAW FUR DEPARTMENT

166 Princess St.

::

Winnipeg, Man.

LIBRARY
BOREAL INSTITUTE

IN EMERGENCIES

Prompt Telephone Service is Vital

With equipment heavily loaded, serious delays may be caused by errors in dialing and by unnecessarily long conversations.

Please consult the Directory for the right number. Please be brief.

Manitoba Telephone System

SERVING THE PROVINCE

CARE

CAUTION

COURTESY

Records show that many accidents could have been avoided — if you observe these three simple rules you will help reduce the country's growing accident toll! A little extra thought can save a lifetime of regret.

Shea's

WINNIPEG BREWERY LIMITED

You can be sure
of the bottom prices
every day of the week
at **SAFEWAY!**

*Be Sure ... Shop **SAFEWAY** and Save!*

SAFEWAY

CANADA SAFEWAY LIMITED

Better Service . . .

Throughout Canada's West elevators bearing the initials U.G.G. stand as dramatic symbols of this farmer owned co-operative success in gaining a better way of life for farmers — and in giving them better farm service.

**UNITED GRAIN
GROWERS LIMITED**

WINNIPEG CALGARY
SASKATOON EDMONTON



PARK-HANNESSON
LTD.

Distributors of
Commercial Fishing Equipment
Marine Hardware
Flambeau Outboard Motors

WINNIPEG — EDMONTON

Canada Needs The
RED + CROSS

*and the Red Cross
 need YOUR help!*

GIVE FROM YOUR HEART!

THE
DREWRY
 LIMITED

WINNIPEG

::

CANADA

MARTIN
PAPER PRODUCTS LIMITED

Manufacturers of

CORRUGATED BOXES

WINNIPEG - CALGARY - EDMONTON

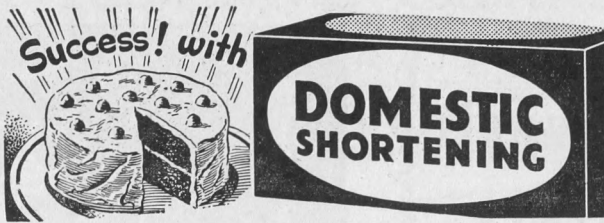
Winnipeg Phone 204 871 - Calgary Phone 55 603 - Edmonton 25 924



Canada's Leading Specialty Shop

Furs and Fashions, also Men's Clothing and
 Furnishings . . . of guaranteed quality, the top-
 most in value . . . at fair and reasonable prices.

HOLT RENFREW & CO., LIMITED



More Canadian housewives use Domestic than any other brand of shortening — and for a good reason. Domestic Shortening is pure — uniform in quality — and fresh. It is ideal for all your cooking and baking. Ask for Domestic Shortening.

A Product of

CANADA PACKERS LIMITED

ST. BONIFACE

FRESH AND FROZEN FISH

Agents for:

British Columbia Packers Limited
"CLOVER LEAF"

Canned Salmon and Frozen Sea Foods

ARMSTRONG GIMLI FISHERIES LTD.

801 Great Western Building

McCURDY SUPPLY CO. Ltd.
BUILDERS SUPPLIES and COAL

READY MIXED CONCRETE

SARGENT AND ERIN STREETS

WINNIPEG, CANADA

Telephone 37 251

SAND AND GRAVEL PITS AT BIRD'S HILL, MANITOBA

Delivering Dollars *when needed most!*

IN 1950, The Great-West

Life delivered \$28 millions—much of it urgently needed—to policyholders and beneficiaries. These dollars helped older people to retire, happily independent. They provided much needed ready cash and continuing income for widows and their children. Mortgages were paid off. Young people were aided in getting an education. Hospital and surgical expenses were paid. These tangible benefits were available in time of need because foresight and thrift had provided such protection. In addition, a

further \$23 millions was added to the funds held to meet future payments to policyholders.

During the year, Great-West Life representatives arranged for \$259,000,000 of new life insurance and annuities on the lives of 57,000 people in Canada and the United States. The total protection owned by our 470,000 policyholders is now \$1,671,000,000. The carefully invested assets, which are held to meet all obligations to policyholders, grew by \$27 millions during the year and amounted to \$385,000,000 at the end of 1950.

The figures, which appear below, are indicative of the development and progress achieved by the Great-West Life in 1950.

| | 1950 | 1949 |
|------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| New Business..... | \$ 259,000,000 | \$ 228,000,000 |
| Business in Force..... | 1,671,000,000 | 1,503,000,000 |
| Assets..... | 385,000,000 | 357,000,000 |

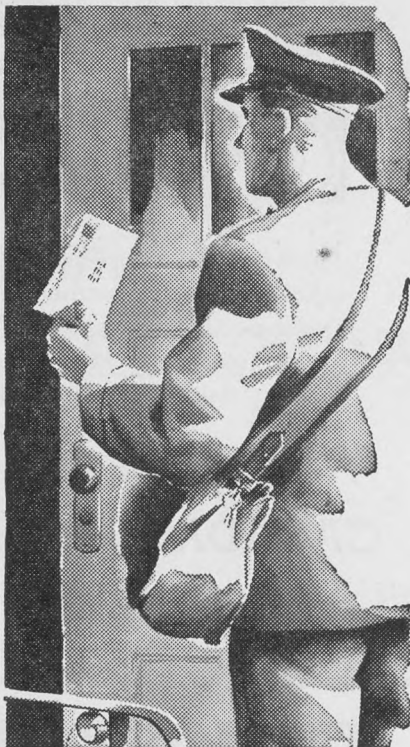
THE

GREAT-WEST LIFE

ASSURANCE COMPANY

HEAD OFFICE—WINNIPEG, CANADA

YOUR FUTURE IS OUR BUSINESS TO-DAY!



The Icelandic Canadian

Vol. 9

WINNIPEG, MAN., SPRING 1951

No. 3

Playhouse Concert To Mark Important Milestone

On March 30, 1951 a concert will be held at the Playhouse Theatre, Winnipeg, under the auspices of the Foundation Committee of the Chair of Icelandic language and literature in the University of Manitoba. It will mark a great milestone in the campaign for raising the funds necessary for the establishment of the Chair, for the sum of \$150,000 has now been reached and this makes it possible for the university, according to agreement, to take active steps to organize a Department of Icelandic.

Ever since the Icelanders first came to this country it has been their dream to bequeath in some manner their cultural heritage to this great country of their adoption. Throughout the years this ideal has been kept alive in various ways, with Icelandic studies made available in the Winnipeg schools at the high school level, and with Icelandic having been taught at Wesley College, Winnipeg, for over twenty-five years, and at the Jon Bjarnason Academy for a quarter of a century.

It was in 1947 that representatives from five Icelandic organizations together with a few other individuals met in Winnipeg to discuss a campaign for raising funds for the establishment of a Chair in Icelandic at the University of Manitoba. These organizations are: The Icelandic Canadian Club, The Icelandic Celebration Committee, The Icelandic Good Templars of Winnipeg, The Icelandic National League of America, and the Jon Sig-

urdson Chapter, I. O. D. E. They agreed to sponsor a campaign for the raising of the amount required to place the Chair on a sound financial basis. They realized that in order that the capital could be maintained and the interest alone used for current expenditure, the amount required would be not less than \$200,000.

To reach this objective it was decided that this fund should be raised on a founder basis, every contributor of \$1,000 or more to become a Founder of the Chair. A Foundation Committee was set up, and consists of these members: Dr. P. H. T. Thorlakson, chairman, Judge W. J. Lindal, Dr. L. A. Sigurdson, A. G. Eggertson, G. L. Johannson and Miss Margret Petursson, as secretary. The sponsoring organizations and the members of the executive committee have all contributed a thousand dollars or more and qualified as Founders of the Chair.

An appeal was made to persons of Icelandic descent all over this continent to lend their support to the venture, with the result that the Icelandic Chair now has Founders in various parts of Canada and the United States, and \$155,000 are at this time on deposit at the University of Manitoba. Thus the first great objective in the campaign has been achieved.

Referring to the establishment of the Chair in Icelandic, Dr. A. H. S. Gillson, president of the University of Manitoba, has said that it is one of the greatest things that has happened to

the University since its inception. Dr. Gillson will be present at the concert, March 30, and will make an important announcement concerning the project.

The support given to this project has at all times been exceptionally good, and as further evidence of the wide-spread interest it has created is the fact that two guest artists are coming from New York to entertain at the concert. They are Maria Markan, well known Icelandic soprano, and Helga Sigurdson, pianist, formerly of Winnipeg. Thus will be assured an appropriate setting for the important announcement to be made by Dr. Gillson.

Among the people here of Icelandic descent the occasion will be one of the most outstanding events of all time, for it will witness the culmination of

the cherished hopes of the pioneers, as brought to fruition through the genuine interest and generosity of their descendants all over America.

But the concert has a further significance, for it will also mark the opening of a general public appeal to raise the balance of the \$200,000 required. The Icelandic Canadian takes pleasure in bringing this appeal to the notice of its readers of Icelandic descent, for never before have they had such a wonderful opportunity to make a concerted effort in support of a noble cause. During the initial campaign the response has been magnificent, and there is no doubt in our mind that this wider appeal for contributions, will bring a quick and spontaneous response.

H. D.

CONCERT

PLAYHOUSE THEATRE

Friday, March 30th, 1951, at 8.30 p.m.

TICKETS available from members of the Foundation Committee, the Icelandic Canadian Club, and at Bjornsson's Book Store, 702 Sargent Ave. Address mail orders to Miss M. Petursson, 45 Home St., Winnipeg.

ADMISSION \$1.00

Please send contributions to the Icelandic Chair Fund to Miss Petursson or to Mr. F. W. Crawford, Comptroller, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada.

Bishop Jón Arason

1484-1550

By T. J. Oleson

Four hundred years ago 7, November last, three men were led out to execution at the episcopal see of Skálholt in Iceland. They were the last Roman Catholic bishop of Iceland, Jón Arason, and his two sons, the lawman Ari and the priest Björn. With the death of these men the last defences of Roman Catholicism in Iceland crumbled. At the same time the last barriers against the introduction of royal absolutism and foreign oppression fell in that North Atlantic island. His Danish majesty and his royal minions stood triumphant.

The dawn of the sixteenth century seemed to portend for Iceland a period of intellectual activity and economic prosperity. The fifteenth had begun grimly with the Black Death and some attendant intellectual stagnation, but the darkness of this period is often overemphasised. Economic prosperity and a literary renaissance marked its closing years. There was every indication that the sixteenth century would see the flowering of letters and continuing prosperity but by the year 1550 it was becoming evident that the dawn was a false one.

The Reformation whose success was assured by the middle of the sixteenth century brought in its wake royal absolutism, lethargy, stagnation and the hideous glare of the witch burnings in the seventeenth century. The absolute power of the king ruined the economic prosperity and drained abroad the wealth of the country. Páll Eggert Ólason has described this change well:

"The Catholic Church was a

severe burden on the people and greatly enriched the churches, monasteries and episcopal sees. But the revenues remained in the main in the country. A great part of this property the king seized (at the time of the Reformation). Thereupon the revenues were drained abroad, in such a way that nothing was given in return."

Added to this was the establishment of the trading monopoly.

The sixteenth century saw the triumph in northern Europe of the Reformed Church. Once the Danish kings had introduced Protestantism into Denmark and Norway it was inevitable that it should also be introduced into Iceland, unless Iceland were to establish its independence. The Reformation was introduced by royal fiat and was no more a popular movement in Iceland than in Norway. There is no evidence that there was any desire among the Icelanders for doctrinal change in the opening decades of the sixteenth century. On the other hand, some anti-clericalism may be detected. A few individuals showed opposition to the temporal power and activities of the bishops and looked with covetous eyes on the landed estates of the church, which may have comprised about half the landed wealth of the country.

II

Jón Arason was born about 1484 at Grýta in Eyjafjarðarsýsla. Recent investigations have shown that his parents were not as poor as some of the tales of his childhood would seem to

indicate. Certainly they were of good stock and he was related on both sides of his family to influential abbots and may have owed his education to these connections. His father died when Jón was about fifteen years old and the care of his mother may have devolved on him.

We know little of Jón Arason's education but the oft-repeated tale of his ignorance of Latin can have no foundation in fact, as Dr. Jón Þorkelsson pointed out many years ago in *Om Digtingen paa Island*, and Dr. Páll E. Ólason more recently in *Saga Íslandinga*, vol. IV. Jón was ordained priest about 1507. His first living was a poor one but he soon bettered himself when he won the favour of Bishop Gottskálk Nikúlasson of Hólar (1498-1520). Some time before 1514 Jón had received the important office of steward of the Cathedral Church of Hólar and became prominent in ecclesiastical business, making two trips to Norway for Bishop Gottskálk.

About 1507 Jón Arason took to himself a concubine, Helga Sigurðardóttir, the marriage of priests being forbidden in Iceland as in other Catholic countries. However this law was enforced with such laxity in Iceland that concubinage was common among priests, many of whom were to all intents and purposes as if married. (In the higher episcopal and abbatial ranks this state of affairs does not seem to have been common). By Helga Jón had nine children, six of whom reached the years of maturity. They were all born before 1519. In that year Bishop Gottskálk granted Jón absolution and declared that he had made full satisfaction for his concubinage.

By 1520 when Bishop Gottskálk died, Jón Arason had become a rich cleric and one of the most prominent priests in the diocese of Hólar. He was then

placed in charge of the diocese and shortly thereafter elected bishop by the clergy of the see. However, his election was opposed by the recently consecrated Bishop of Skálholt, Ögmundur Pálsson, who had returned to Iceland in 1522 following his consecration. He went to great lengths in his attempts to prevent the bishop-elect from proceeding to Norway for his consecration. But all his efforts proved in vain. Jón Arason reached Norway, secured the approval of the new king Frederick I and of the chapter of Nidaros and was there consecrated Bishop of Hólar in August 1524. The ceremony was marked by an accident of ill omen. Bishop Jón's mitre fell off his head at the conclusion of the ordination ceremony. Two pages hastened to recover it saying, "Ill it was that this happened". The bishop prophetically replied that the end of his episcopal career would be as sudden.

After spending the winter in Norway, Denmark and Germany, Bishop Jón sailed for Iceland in the spring of 1525, prepared to take charge of the see of Hólar. The income of this see was at that time about \$25,000 a year (1913 values). After Bishop Jón's arrival in Iceland Bishop Ögmundur seems to have given up the struggle to deprive him of the see, although difficulties between the two were not ended before 1527, when they faced each other at the Alþing at the head of armed forces. Bishop Ögmundur is said to have had from 1440 to 1660 men in his forces and Bishop Jón 1080. It seemed for a time as if a battle would take place but finally saner counsel prevailed and the two prelates made up their differences. Any disputes that arose between them after this were settled by compromise and Bishop Ögmundur ordained as priests at least

two of the sons of Bishop Jón—Magnus in 1529 and Björn in 1535.

The early years of Bishop Jón's episcopacy were peaceful ones. The danger from Lutheranism, which may have played its part in keeping relations between the two bishops peaceful, was not great until after 1540. The bishop spent his time in the administration of his see, enriching it by a careful management of its estates. During these years he also advanced his children. Although he showed great favouritism, his behaviour in this matter was not scandalous and his children all seem to have been highly gifted.

In 1528 Bishop Jón promoted his son Magnús, who was then a deacon in orders, to the office of provost. As he was too young to assume the onerous duties of this office an older priest was appointed to carry out the work. In 1529 Magnus was ordained priest and was given a rich living. Four years later he took to himself a wealthy concubine who came from a politically powerful family. Magnús died in 1535.

At what seems to have been a very early age, Ari Jónsson was elected lawman in 1529. He was the most popular of the bishop's children—generous, educated and learned. His manner of life was aristocratic and he was jovial and a *bon vivant*. The bishop valued him highly and made him generous gifts. Ari, too, married into a prominent family.

Sigurður Jónsson may have been the wisest of the bishop's children. He was a moderate and peaceful man. He was often employed by his father on the business of the see and went abroad twice, in 1534 and 1543. He was steward and *officialis* of the see of Hólar. After the death of his father he was twice elected Bishop of Hólar by the clergy of the diocese but rejected by

the king on both occasions. His concubine, Cecilía, came from an old and noble family, and it is almost certain that he married her after the Reformation.

The least popular of the bishop's sons was the fourth one, Björn. He was thought to be avaricious and unscrupulous in his methods of acquiring wealth. His father gave him a good living in 1534 although he was not ordained priest until 1535. His concubine came from the same family as the above-mentioned Cecilía.

Of the bishop's two daughters, Þórunn and Helga, the former was her father's favourite. Helga made a good marriage and her father gave her a handsome dowry. Þórunn married the lawman Rafn Brandsson in 1526 when she was only fourteen or fifteen years old. Two years later when Rafn was killed in a duel she was left a rich widow. In 1533 she married again. Her second husband was Ísleifur Sigurðsson, the owner of the rich estate of Grund in Eyjafjörð, which she inherited at his death in 1548. They were childless and Þórunn is said to have chided her husband for this in a stanza which may be freely translated thus: "At the fair farm of Grund in Eyjafjörð, a farmer has lived for some time who does not know how to make a child". Ísleifur is said to have replied: "God knows best how to make children, my wife". Þórunn's third husband was Þorsteinn Guðmundsson with whom Þórunn is said to have been in love after the death of her first husband, but to have been prevented from marrying him by her family who objected to Þorsteinn's amorous proclivities. Their marriage took place in 1553 and Þorsteinn died about 1570. Þórunn, herself, lived to a ripe old age, dying at Grund in 1593. Her description of her three husbands is well known:

"My Rafn was the greatest aristocrat, my Ísleifur the greatest dandy and my Þorsteinn the greatest man-of-the-world". She was a woman of strong character and clung to Roman Catholicism to her dying day.

III

The motives which inspired Bishop Jón Arason's opposition to Lutheranism were no doubt complex. It would seem, however, that devotion to the old faith was the primary one. Patriotism and the desire to preserve the rights and liberties of his countrymen were also strong forces. Ambition and love of power may also have played their part. No attempt can be made in such a short treatise as this to assess the validity of arguments advanced in favour of the above views. It may be pointed out, however, that great care should be exercised not to overestimate such factors as nationalism and not to underestimate religious motivation when dealing with the history of the sixteenth century.

Lutheranism began to rear its head in Iceland some time after 1530, but only a few individuals were affected. It is difficult to see how it would have made any progress in Iceland had it not been promoted by the king. After his seizure of power in 1536, King Christian III violently attacked the Catholic Church in Denmark and Norway. On 2 Sept., 1537 he issued an ordinance regulating the worship and organisation of the Lutheranism he had already established by the recess of 30 Oct. 1536. This ordinance he then sent for adoption to Iceland in 1538. Both bishops received it coolly and in 1539 Bishop Ögmundur forbade anyone to embrace the heresy taught by a certain grey monk (Luther).

Bishop Ögmundur was however by this time both old and almost blind.

He perhaps felt that enfeebled as he was he would be unable to cope with the new developments in religion which the king was urging. He, therefore, proposed that his successor should be a protégé of his, Gizur Einarsson. The old bishop did not realize that in Gizur Einarsson, one of the few young men who had embraced the teachings of Luther, he had been nourishing a viper in his bosom. When Gizur sailed in 1539 to secure the confirmation of the king for his appointment to the see of Skálholt, he readily fell in with the king's wishes in religious matters, but for some reason returned to Iceland in 1540 without having been consecrated bishop.

Upon his return Gizur assumed control of the diocese of Skálholt and Ögmundur retired. However, when the old bishop saw how the old faith was being replaced by the new, he attempted in concert with Bishop Jón Arason to stem its course. In this he did not have much success for the king dispatched an armed force under Christopher Hvítfeld to Iceland in 1541 to take action for the slaying of a royal official, Didrik van Minden, at Skálholt in 1539.

Hvítfeld and Gizur Einarsson joined hands and Bishop Ögmundur was taken prisoner. Gizur wrote Hvítfeld not to let the 'old fox' escape. Ögmundur was promised freedom if he surrendered all his wealth to Hvítfeld, but when he had done this, the Danes sailed away to Denmark with Bishop Ögmundur still a prisoner. He seems to have died at sea and was buried in Denmark. Lutheranism was then introduced everywhere in the diocese of Skálholt and the royal ordinance on religion adopted.

In the meantime Bishop Jón Arason continued to maintain the old faith in

(Continued on page 41)

Glimpses Of Norway

By Lilja Guttormson

The sun was shining brightly on a warm summer's day, July 9th, 1950, when we started off from Wings Reisebureau, Oslo, on a trip through western Norway. My two companions were Unni Lindholt, a Norwegian girl, and Floris Olsen, a Canadian girl of Norwegian descent. We found ourselves among a group of twenty-five, including Norwegians, Swedes and Danes, none of whom spoke English, save one or two, a few more being able to understand a little. Floris and I were afraid to apply our limited Norwegian vocabulary, but with Unni as our interpreter and guide, we managed very well. The Norwegians and Swedes especially, were very friendly,—they shook hands as they introduced themselves and exchanged smiles with us when words failed. On the whole, we were a happy group and enjoyed life immensely.

Our tourist bus was different from Canadian buses, in that the top could be opened and shut by a sliding panel of canvas. Thus, on the warm sunny days, we benefited by the fresh air and sunshine without suffering any discomfort from dust, for during our week's trip there was never a speck of dust to blind the eye or stuff the nose. For the sake of variety, we changed seats every day moving back one each time so that we never had the same seat twice during the whole trip and, in this way, viewed the passing scenery from a different angle each day. The driver was a solid, strong, type in whom we had great confidence when swinging around hairpin bends, along the edges of sheer precipices, at times going through difficult manoeuvres in

order to pass another bus or a motor car. The driver also served as our guide, explaining special points of interest in Norwegian. What we could not understand was interpreted to Floris and me by Unni.

The hotel accomodation was adequate, while not up to the last word in modern luxury, save perhaps in one case, it was, on the whole, very clean and comfortable. There was hot and cold running water in our rooms, and in one case, we had a private bath and that was at the new Rauland Høgfjellshotell in Telemark. For bed covers we had the usual Norwegian "dyne" or eider-down quilt, which cannot be surpassed for lightness and warmth. At night, we went to sleep to the lullaby of a waterfall, sometimes fairly loud and insistent, sometimes a faint rumble in the distance, but always inducive to sleep.

Our daily schedule was never strenuous. We had breakfast between eight and nine o'clock and commenced our day's journey between nine and ten. We stopped for fifteen minutes or more during the morning, generally at some point of interest. We had lunch around three o'clock at a restaurant or hotel which had been reserved for our group in advance. At night, we pulled in where reservations had been made, at about six o'clock, had our evening meal around seven-thirty, followed by coffee served in the sitting room. We spent the evening walking around the countryside, writing postcards and diaries, or just talking. One evening, Floris read some Norwegian with pronunciation as in English, with such a comical effect that we laughed

until the tears rolled down our cheeks!

The food was generally excellent and well prepared. Breakfast consisted of a boiled egg, "smorbrod," meaning bread with meat, fish, jam or cheese on it in open-faced sandwich style, various biscuits, oatmeal porridge, milk and coffee. But not toast, oh, no! Toast is not popular in Norway. However, we always enjoyed a substantial breakfast, in spite of which we were quite hungry at three o'clock, when we had lunch. This included hot meat or fish and many kinds of vegetables followed by dessert. At one place, Ullensvang, we had fresh cherries for dessert, as we were passing through in the cherry-picking season. In the evening for our "middag" we had soup, hot meat or fish, vegetables, dessert and coffee. Even though we dined at a different hotel each day we seldom had repetition of the same food twice in a row. Needless to say, we gained weight during our trip.

So much for travelling, conditions. Now for some description of the scenery, of some of the things which met the eye, impressed the mind and made the trip worth while. The scenery was magnificent and really defies description, but I shall do my best to interpret it as it impressed me.

From Oslo to Mjosa Lake and along the seventy-five miles of this narrow lake, we travelled through fairly open country, with a view of mountains in the distance across the lake on our left. This is beautiful, rolling country, through fertile farmlands, liberally dotted with bushes and trees, both broad-leaved and evergreen. The vivid green shades of the various hay and grain fields, recently cut, in fairly small patches and strips upon the hillsides and in the hollows, with buildings of red, yellow or brown beside them, lend colour to the landscape, in ad-

dition to nature's own effective touch of various types of growth on hillside-slopes and mountain-sides. At times, this beauty of landscape becomes twofold, when reflected in the waters of a lake, a river or a fjord.

During a short stop-over in Lillehammer, we were shown through a section of the Folk Museum at Maihaugen where we saw old houses, hundreds of years old, with the old hand-made, hand-carved furniture, utensils and implements. The different houses show the improvements that came with each century. The nine-hundred-year-old "Stavkirke"—or Stave Church, is very interesting. Weddings are still being performed in it for those who wish an old-fashioned touch.

The following morning, we drove to Vestre Gausdal, where "Aulestad", Bjornstjerne Bjornson's interesting home is situated. In magnificent surroundings, this home has been preserved in its entirety, the way it was when the Bjornsons lived there, a fitting memorial to this great, beloved author and statesman of Norway. Thousands go through the house every year, with a woman-guide who explains everything and gives glimpses of the personal life of the author and his worthy spouse. All is there—pictures, photos, busts, vases which are always kept filled with fresh flowers, china, silverware, beautiful gifts from individuals and countries, furniture, rugs, utensils. It all shows exquisite taste, a sense of beauty and of comfort, a splendid proof of the gift of true home-making.

The same type of scenery as before continued as we travelled through the wide, open spaces of Hedemark, along the idyllic Randsfjord, through the beautiful Valdres Valley, along a lovely river. We had passed through thick forests of fir, spruce, pine and other

trees, tall straight trees, the very type that tempts the woodsman's axe. Indeed, lumbering was much in evidence, —cut logs, scattered, in piles, or floating on the rivers and fjords, on their way to the sawmills.

We were coming into higher country now, passing over a plateau where growth was more stunted. The trees were few and far between, they were bent and gnarled as a result of their struggle with the elements. There was less grass, more moss and bare, barren rocks. There were few signs of life in evidence, yet occasionally, to our surprise, we came upon a home, where someone was eking out an existence in one way or another.

Going down to Gol in Hallingdal, we spent the night at Eidsgaard Hotel. The next day we drove up Hallingdalen, a valley, through typical mountain districts, with old farm homes, hanging like birds' nests upon the steep mountain sides and with narrow strips of green grass or grain appearing to be almost vertical. Past Geilo and Haugastol, we commenced our trip over the high mountain, passing the height of land at 1240 metres above sea level. The scene was most impressive from here, although fog obscured the view of the Hardanger glacier and the surrounding mountain masses. At Fossli, we saw the mighty Voringfoss—a waterfall. We tip-toed almost on the edge of a precipice and looked down upon the thundering, frothing waters in their descent from the plateau to lower regions.

The road lay around Voringfoss and suddenly we entered a mountain pass. There was an excited murmur all through the bus and sudden exclamation followed by awestruck silences. We were driving along a narrow ledge, with high mountains on our left and a deep gorge on our right. Looking

back, we saw where Voringfoss came rushing down into the gorge, continuing in a tumbling mountain river. All afternoon we drove along these ledges, around hair-pin bends, each leg of the road being higher than the last in a sort of oblong spiral, until we could see four or five sections of the road one above the other going up, and then one below the other going down again to the lower levels. The road was well constructed with safety guards along the edges, but we were thrilled and excited with the adventure of it and awestruck by the immensity of the mountains, the depth of the gorges, the speed of the waterfalls and rivers.

Towards evening, we descended into lower country, drove along the coast of Eidsfjord, a branch of Hardangerfjord until we came to Voringfoss Hotel, situated on the fjord. We stayed here for two nights and what an ideal spot for a summer holiday! — I would not fancy it in the winter time, I imagine it would be so lonely, barren and cold!—This section of Eidsfjord appeared like a small lake completely surrounded by mountains, rising like towering walls up out of the water. A few trees relieved the barrenness of these rocky walls. There were small patches of snow on the mountain tops with rivulets of water trickling down from them along crooked paths, murmuring as they went. Some of the snow patches had disappeared, but the paths worn by the water streaming from them were still visible.

Aside from the murmur of the running water, the stillness was profound and in that stillness a few people live all the year round. An hotel, a couple of stores or so, a filling station, a church and a few homes are scattered about. At a small kiosk we saw some souvenirs. We were interested in runners woven from wool yarn in hand-

looms by the local people. We bought one each in a steel gray colour with a pattern of other colours,—beautifully done.

We saw a farmer cutting grass with a scythe, truly an old-fashioned method, or at least, it would be considered so in the New World, but obviously so is the only possible method here,—the field patches are so small, very often on slopes too steep for animals or machines. The hay is raked by hand and hung in swaths on long wire fences, put up for the purpose of drying the hay. When the hay is dry it is loaded onto a small hayrack pulled by one little pony. Some of the ponies are the colour of coffee with cream in it and their manes and tails are dark. They are tough little creatures and evidently quite surefooted in the mountains.

Out on the fjord, a fisherman in a boat was lifting his nets, with no apparent catch at the time. A few yards further along the road a little girl with cherries in a basket offered us one each. Quite surprised, we took the cherries and ate them. Looking towards the small orchard along the road we saw a man on a ladder picking cherries. We thanked the girl and started off then stopped short in our steps when we suddenly realized that the girl must have been advertising her father's cherries. So we turned around and made a purchase, agreeing that this was the best method of advertising we had ever seen anywhere!

In the afternoon, the whole group went on a motor-boat trip to the little village of Ulvik. We enjoyed lovely scenery on the way in spite of rain most of the time there and back. We just put on our raincoats and hoods and sang songs, thus drowning out the noise of the rain. Practically all the others fled into the shelter of the

cabin! During a short stop over at Ulvik, we had a cup of coffee and bought some souvenirs.

Continuing our journey next morning, we travelled along the beautiful Sörfjord, through idyllic farm lands and fruit orchards. This fertile area between the mountains and the fjord was so beautiful and fruitful, with its rows of apple, cherry and pear trees, many of them growing on the very steep hillsides. How in the world can they ever cultivate such steep places and how pick the fruit? Out beyond the immediate surroundings our wandering gaze dwelt upon the beautiful Hardangerfjord and the Buarbrean's tremendous ice and snow masses. We were awestruck by the rugged beauty and the vastness of it all.

In among a nest of mountains we came upon the industrial city of Odda, an electro-chemical centre. Fed by the power from harnessed mountain streams, this city thrives and grows. Going through the city we saw signs of grime and dust so characteristic of an industrial place, but so incongruous in this setting of fresh beauty and pure mountain air.

Further on, we came upon the mighty, well-known Laatefoss, a tremendous double waterfall, the two being a few yards apart. The water came roaring down the steep mountain-side, foaming over obstacles and rebounding back and up in a swirl of spray and mist, then cataracting down and on into a boiling mountain stream. The sound was deafening. The fine spray reached out over the rocks, wetting our cheeks. It reflected the sun's rays in two beautiful rainbows, one across each waterfall, as we left! Unforgettable.

Just past Laatefoss, we stopped for a snow-fight by huge snow banks along the road. Then on we went through

the narrow valley of Seljastadjuvet, around hair-pin bends, going in elliptical spirals upwards,—then downwards over Hordabrekkene to Roldal. There we entered an old twelfth-century church, where we examined the quaint architecture, wood carving and inscriptions. Going on along the steep mountain road we arrived at Breifonn where we spent the night. The hotel has a beautiful setting up on the mountain side, overlooking the fjord far down below.

The next morning we continued up Austmannalia, rather barren-looking country, but with enough growth to support from five to six thousand goats in the district. We saw herds of goats in pasture on the mountain sides or being milked by their owners. The district is famous for its "gjeitost" or goat-cheese which we tasted in the hotel and in the Botnfjellstova restaurant where we had lunch. Being freshly made, it was delicious.

We passed the height of land at Dyrskar 1133 meters above sea-level, where huge snow banks still lay on the mountains and along the roadside higher than the bus. We stopped for lunch at Botnfjellstova, a quaint, old log building, which was very clean and nicely painted on the inside. Girls in native costumes served a most delicious lunch with home-made jams and cheeses and the most fragrant coffee I tasted during the whole trip. A short distance away an old-fashioned "stabbur" or storehouse, held great interest for the tourists and was the subject of many photos. Upon leaving this typically lonely mountain spot, we continued on through Vinjebygden, a more fertile district with picturesque farm homes scattered about. Thick forests clothed the landscape and lumbering was in evidence.

At Rauland Hogfjellshotell, we

spent the last night of our trip. Being only about a year old this hotel is very modern and up-to-date, with every convenience. We even had a private bathroom here. Being situated in one of the best skiing spots in Norway, the winter season is the busiest at this hotel.

On the final day of our trip, following an early breakfast, we started off on an ascending road, which took us past the old Eidsborg Stavkirke, through the Rauland district over a plateau to Mosvann, where we stopped to see the power-dam constructed there. A sharply winding road took us down to the town of Rjukan with its world-famous saltpeter factory and power plant. Nearby, a cable-car up the steep mountain-side attracted our interest. Most of us went up the five hundred metres or so and experienced a thrilling sensation. The view was utterly beautiful from that great height.

Further on, we stopped at Vemork power plant, known for the heavy-water sabotage by some daring Norwegians during the German occupation. The factory is situated deep down in the gorge surrounded by high, steep, barren, mountains, now a historic spot—a reminder of Norwegian bravery.

On we went through Tinnbygden and Bolkesjo to Kongsberg, the "Silver Town". Following lunch, where we presented the driver with a purse, a gift of appreciation, we were taken through the silver museum and an old mine shaft where the old-fashioned implements and other apparatus were displayed. On display, also, were various silver ornaments, oddly shaped nuggets, coins and silver bricks. This was most interesting but too much to see in the short time at our disposal.

We were now on the homeward stretch, passing through more open, more level country, through Eiker's

orchards and farms, the town of Drammen and Leirdalen, a fruit district, and along the beautiful Oslo fjord, arriving in Oslo about seven o'clock on Saturday evening.

We could hardly believe that our tour was over, that we had actually passed through these miles and miles of variegated, mountain scenery. We felt rested and refreshed and would

have liked to continue travelling. But we must await another chance. In the meantime, we enjoy recalling the beautiful technicolour pictures and reliving the pleasant episode of this memorable trip.

Editors note:— Lilja Guttormsson is a member of the Icelandic Canadian club, who has been on the staff of the Canadian Embassy at Oslo, Norway for over a year. She expects to be there for another two years.

New Appointments

GETS MANPOWER POST



Judge W. J. Lindal of Winnipeg has been appointed to the national advisory council on manpower. This council consists of thirty-two members, sixteen from the Government, mainly deputy ministers, and sixteen representative citizens from the ten provinces.

The council was formed for the purpose of advising the government as to the best possible utilization of the manpower of Canada, and will meet

approximately once a month at Ottawa, the first meeting being held Feb. 20-21.

Judge Lindal is chairman of the National employment commission.

★



William Benidickson, M.P. for Rainy River, Ontario, has been appointed parliamentary Assistant, to Hon. L. Chevrier, Minister of Transport. Mr. Benidickson is of Icelandic descent, his father being the late Kristjan Benidickson of Winnipeg.

Our Children

by Thóra Helgadóttir of Iceland

This address was given, Feb. 14, on the CBC coast to coast network, in their series of talks called "Our Children". Thóra Helgadóttir is a daughter of Helgi Guðmundsson, a bank director in Reykjavík. She studied Music, Interior Decorating and Ceramics in American Universities for three years, 1943-46. In 1944 she married Thorhallur Halldorsson, who was also studying in the United States and is a Master of Sciences in Dairy Products. They live in Reykjavík, Iceland. Thóra's talk was transcribed in Iceland and sent here for use on the CBC broadcast

The CBC Producer kindly sent it to the Icelandic Canadian for publication. —Editor

Reykjavík, the capital of Iceland, has been a very rapidly growing town during the past 50 years. In fact, from being a small village at the turn of the century with a few thousand people, it is today a town with over 55 thousand inhabitants, which is more than one third of the country's total population.

During this rapid change from a village to a big town, Reykjavík gradually acquired all the characteristics of a thickly populated place, both its advantages and disadvantages—in the beginning maybe more of the defects.

The children had partially been forgotten in this town of the grown-ups and their activities. Gradually almost the only playground for the children became the streets, in the homes they got less and less freedom of action as the living quarters became more and more crowded owing to a steadily increasing housing shortage.

Rational people were fully aware of the fact that something had to be done for the youngest inhabitants of the capital so that they might have the benefit of satisfactory educational conditions. Women's organizations and teachers were the ones who had the clearest understanding of this problem.

In 1924, the Women's League founded a child welfare organization which had on its programme primarily the establishment of day nurseries, where pre-school children would have the op-

portunity for play in healthy surroundings, under the supervision of a competent, specially trained staff.

In the following years and up to 1940, a few day-nurseries were operated during the summer time on a very small scale, but because of financial difficulties there could be no talk of expansion unless the state or the municipality could give an annual financial support to the child welfare organization. This was done at last in 1940 when city officials no longer could deny the urgent need for more and better day-nurseries and kindergartens, operating all the year around. The Icelandic state and the municipality have since then increased their support annually to the organization.

In the course of the past 10 years the organization has set up two day nurseries, several kindergartens and two orphanages. During the same time, a great number of modernly equipped playgrounds have been erected, supervised and supported by the municipality.

The need for all these establishments has also been very great for other reasons. The war situation produced such a great demand for work in the capital, mostly due to the English-American occupation of the country and a tremendous expansion in all kinds of industries, that people from the rural districts and small villages moved in great numbers to the city. This is one of the main reasons

for the fact that the population of Reykjavik has increased by roughly 18,000 in the last 10 years. As a consequence, many difficult problems have arisen of which the housing shortage is the most serious. It is, therefore, easy to understand what an asset these nursery homes and playgrounds have proved to be to children of big families, living in cramped tenements, where their freedom of action is confined to the streets, the housewives so loaded with housework that little or no time is left for the care-taking and education of their children, house help is a luxury of the comparatively few, being both hard to get and expensive.

The nursery homes in Reykjavik are divided into day nurseries and kindergartens. The day nurseries are confined to children of all classes but as the demand for admission cannot as yet be satisfied, primarily children of big families with limited income or children of the working mother, whether she is a widow, a deserted wife, an unmarried mother or a wife forced to earn her living, get admission.

These children in ages ranging from 18 months to six years receive all day care, from eight o'clock in the morning until six o'clock in the afternoon. The day is divided into periods of play, meals and sleep. Play includes all recreation, outdoors and indoors, craft work such as modelling, and drawing and singing. The children eat at three different periods. Special emphasis is put on the nutritional value of the food and a well balanced diet. Sleep refers to the afternoon nap for the youngest ones. The monthly fees for the children are very small.

The kindergarten is also confined to children of all classes, from the age of 2½ up to 6 years. One group of

these children arrives at nine o'clock in the morning and leaves at noon and the second group stays from one o'clock until five or six in the afternoon. In the kindergartens, no food is provided for the children, but recreational activities are the same as in the day nurseries. The number of kindergartens are three but two more are operated in schools during the summer.

Besides the day nurseries and the kindergartens, two orphanages for roughly fifty children from birth to four years of age are run by the child welfare organization. A special nursery for infants under one year of age is housed in one of them. The physical care of the children in all of these homes is very good. A specially appointed physician looks after the children of the day nurseries and kindergartens once a week and more often if necessary but in the orphanages a daily check up of the children is carried out. All these previously mentioned establishments of the child welfare organizations are run by a special board of directors, consisting mostly of educators, who are doing this entirely on a voluntary basis.

The board, among other things, appoints the supervisors for each of these three types of nursery homes. Only women specially trained for this purpose are selected. Besides the supervisor and the manual workers who keep the machine going the staff in these nursery homes consists of trained nurses and students of the pedagogical seminary, one nurse and one student for each group of 12 to 18 children. As these establishments demand a broad knowledge from the educational, child care and social service standpoints, great emphasis is put on the selection of well qualified women with a sound knowledge of child psych-

ology and education as they are primarily social workers.

In 1946 a pedagogical seminary was established for the training of nurses and kindergarten teachers. Up to that time, the supervisors and the nurses had received their training abroad, but increased lack of trained nurses made the foundation for the school a necessity.

The school course lasts for two years. Along with the theoretical study, the students get practical training in the nursery homes as previously mentioned. A graduate from Smith College in the United States is the head of this school.

Besides the activities of the child welfare organization, which have now been explained, two other projects have been carried out, one by the Icelandic Red Cross and the other by the municipality, for the benefit of the children.

The Red Cross has in the past 10 years operated homes for children during the summer, using for that purpose schoolhouses located in different places out in the country. What signi-

ficance this has for town children, everyone can understand.

The other project supervised by the municipality is the operation of several orphanages, also situated out in the country, and one nursery, set up last year in the capital, which is housed in a new, very modern building, and run under the most favorable conditions.

Finally, I want to point out that, even though much has been done in this field in a very short time, there is still much left undone, and many changes to the better can be made. The child welfare organization, which has backed up these projects from the beginning, has several plans for the future. They need more and better equipped day nurseries and kindergartens for smaller groups of children. Already there are two additional kindergartens under construction and three others are planned. With the continued support of the municipality and the state they will carry onward with the good work until the demand for such places has been satisfactorily met.

THE ICELANDIC CANADIAN

Published Quarterly by the Icelandic Canadian Club, Winnipeg, Canada.

The 8 volumes already published contain: 198 articles about the pioneers and their descendants in North America; 38 articles about matters relating to Iceland; many articles of general nature, stories and poetry, and 1340 pictures.

Eight volumes complete, 32 issues \$8.00 post paid

(only 9 sets available, selling fast)

29 issues, available in larger quantities, \$5. Isolated issues 25 cnt.

Subscriptions: One year \$1.00, 2 years \$1.75. — Payable in Advance.

Subscriptions in Iceland: \$1.25, (Kr. 18) — Send orders to:

Frú Ólöf Sigurðardóttir, 26, C Vesturgötu, Reykjavík.

THIS MAGAZINE IS AN IDEAL XMAS GIFT.

Address Orders to: **H. F. Danielson, 869 Garfield St. Winnipeg, Canada**

IN JOINT RECITAL AT PLAYHOUSE THEATRE



Maria Markan, well known Icelandic soprano, will appear in recital at the Playhouse theatre, Friday, March 30th.

Miss Markan visited Winnipeg in 1941 and gave a song recital at the concert hall of the Auditorium, on March 6, that year, to a capacity audience of enthusiastic listeners. In 1942 she was engaged by the Metropolitan Opera in New York and sang one of the main roles in "The Marriage of Figaro". She returned to Manitoba in 1945 to sing at the Icelandic Celebration at Gimli. On March 25th Maria Markan will sing as a representative of Iceland in a "Festival of Nations in Song" at Town Hall, New York.

She has appeared at the Glyndebourne Opera festival in England and with the Schiller Opera in Hamburg. Her operatic roles include Leonora in

La Forza del Destino; Leonore in Il Trovatore, Countess Almaviva in Le Nozze di Figaro; Elsa in Lohengrin and Elizabeth in Tannhauser.

In 1940 Maria Markan made an extensive concert and radio tour in Australia under the sponsorship of the Australian Broadcasting Commission.



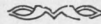
Miss Helga Sigurdson pianist, will appear with Miss Markan in recital March 30th. She received her A.M.M., L.M.M. (Man.) and L.R.S.M. (London England) in Winnipeg before leaving for advanced study in New York in 1945. She returned to Winnipeg and gave a recital at the Playhouse Theatre Oct. 14, 1948, having travelled to Iceland during the summer, where she gave a number of piano recitals. In January 15, 1949 Miss Sigurdson made her debut at Town Hall, New York. She is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. Sigurdson of Winnipeg.

Joint Recital

MARIA MARKAN
Soprano

HELGA SIGURDSON
Pianist

Playhouse Theatre, Friday, March 30th, 1951



Piano—

Sonata in B Minor..... Liszt

Soprano Solos—

Peace My God..... Aria from the opera Power of Destiny

A Blackbird Singing..... Michael Head

When I Have Sung My Songs..... Ernest Charles

Birdsong At Eventide..... Eric Coates

Iris..... Daniel Wolfe

The Star..... James H. Rogers

Announcement.... Dr. A. H. S. Gillson, President of the University of Manitoba

Piano—

Nocturne in E Major..... Chopin

Scherzo in B Minor..... Chopin

Soprano Solos—

Greeting (Kveðja)..... Thorarinn Guðmundsson

Mother (Mamma)..... Sigurður Thordarson

The Wandering Swain..... Karl O. Runolfsson

Lullaby (Vögguvísa)..... Páll Ísólfsen

Shepherd's Song (Smalavísa)..... Hallgrímur Helgason

Galloping Over the Desert (Á Sprengisandi)..... Sigvaldi Kaldalóns

Accompanist..... Mrs. Thelma Wilson

God Save The King

Inventors Among The Pioneers

By Guttormur J. Guttormsson

(Ed. Note:— Mr. Guttormsson delivered this address at the concert held in his honor by the Icelandic Canadian club in the First Federated Church, Winnipeg, November 21, 1949. On that occasion his poetry was featured on the programme in song and recitation, and his career as poet and dramatist reviewed, and he was presented with an honorary life membership in the club.)

I wish to thank the Icelandic Canadian Club for this great honor.

I consider this even a greater honor than to be presented with a cask of wine and a wreath of laurels.

This is a great occasion on my birthday, November the twenty first.

If my esteemed friend Dr. Rúnólfur Marteinsson had not discovered my birth date in an old script, it would have been doubtful if I had ever been born and none in the future would have known that I had ever existed.

I am therefore in position to accept this honor. The honor is greater because the Icelandic Canadian Club has never failed in anything—it has been a lifelong success. One of its achievements is the book **Iceland's Thousand Years**, a series of articles written in a masterly fashion by Icelandic Canadian scholars. This book has won praise and popularity on both sides of the ocean. The able editors of the **Icelandic Canadian Magazine** have made untiring efforts for research in the field of art and letters and have made the reading public acquainted with talented descendants of the Icelandic pioneers in all parts of the United States and Canada; poets, artists, musicians, handicraftmen and inventors.

The magazine has revived gems of literature, almost forgotten and some unknown to the Icelandic people, such as the English translation of the **Icelandic Millennial Hymn**—the unique translation by Magister Eiríkur

Magnússon of Cambridge and the inspiring poem **The Librarian** by Sigurdur Sigvaldason which is one of the finest poems ever written in English by an Icelander.

Who would have thought, that the book "Guð minn, Guð minn" was written by the same author?

One of his ideas in this book gave me thought for an Icelandic verse and it is an example of the contents of the book.

The author makes a statement that he has sinned against God in the bone on the Woman's side!

Here it is in Icelandic:

Sit eg eftir syndaföll
Samvizkunni sleginn,
Boðorðin hef ég brotið öll
I beininu konumegin.

Compare this to the beautiful poem **The Librarian**. Here is a problem for the new psychology—a real Gordian knot.

We have no time to discuss the works of other notables on the long list. The inventors have not entirely been left out. If I remember right, there appeared in the Icelandic Canadian magazine an article about Hjörtur Thordarson. But there are many others to be considered.

Here in Winnipeg lived a man named Sigurður Anderson who in for anything else on the sleigh.

Of course, the steam engine was a full load in itself and left little room for anything else on the sleigh.

The Bombardier shows that Anderson's idea was on the right track although nothing became of the invention.

The failure was due to the rear sleigh, because the front sleigh was all that was needed. The steamsleigh was the ordinary double-sleigh. If the devil had taken the tail-end as usual,—the hind sleigh in this instance,—Anderson would have been the inventor of the Bombardier, the Caterpillar, the Bulldozer and the Tank and these toys would have been in use fifty-five years ago. Anderson was right at the door of the Hall of Fame but unfortunately never entered.

The most prominent inventor among the Canadian Icelanders was Stefan B. Jonsson, a carpenter by trade.

He invented a mower and had it constructed with the object of having it tried out at the Industrial Exhibition here in Winnipeg. It was to be pushed by a team of horses. The knife—twelve feet long—was situated in front of the horses. The inventor pointed out that there was no danger of the horses having a run-a-way—they would never dare jump in front of the knife. There was death and disaster if they did! No lines were needed to conduct the horses. The captain was to sit behind the horses with a whip in one hand—to prevent them from backing up—and a rudder handle in the other.

On the way to the exhibition ground it broke down so thoroughly that it went out of existence. Those who had invested in this enterprise lost everything—even their faith in God.

Stefan B. lost the child of his brain but not his courage!

Immediately after this disaster, he invented a window-latch which also failed—then a diningroom-table, a kind of a Merry-go-round which is now in

use in the United States, having been discovered by another inventor.

Then, last but not least, he invented a milking machine so ingeniously constructed that even a dry cow could on occasion be induced to yield a stream of milk. Being so satisfactory it was used once too often for this type of experiment and finally broke down under the strain. So thoroughly was it demolished, that like 'Humpty Dumpty' it could not be put together again as no one could distinguish one piece from another!

A blacksmith at Icelandic River—his name was Jón Jonsson—invented a marine engine—a tread-power engine, which looked like a spinning wheel and worked in the same way. He had it installed in a small skiff designed for high speed. It was, however, to say the least, pathetic to see him perspiring profusely while treading the mill and the boat hardly moving. With his inventive mind Jon Jonsson must have been dreaming of automobiles long before they were in existence because he invented an automatic wagon with extremely large wheels. The motor had to be operated by two strong men, like a pump. In other words, the wagon was set in motion like a railroad hand-car. The two men and the pumping outfit took up all the room on the wagon. There was no room for "first mate and second mate". They were actually not needed because the wagon had no steering gear. It made its own course into space like a "bloody comet" and disappeared!

On the other hand—the list of the successful inventors has become a longitude. Only the first on the list will be mentioned here.

Kristjan, (frá Geitareyjum) invented artificial feet and made them of wood with his own hands for his compatriot Hans "hinn fótalausa" —

Hans (without feet). For this he received \$100 from the government as a reward. I remember seeing Hans "hinn fótalausa" standing gracefully on Kristjan's feet with boots on.

Suffering (slightly) from an inferiority complex I used to consider myself in a class with those who did not succeed—the Grand Martyrs who set them-

selves a higher mark than they could reach. Thanks to the Icelandic Canadian Club—this has changed.

I wish to thank you Mr. Chairman—thank you Mrs. Danielson for your lovely address—thank you Mr. Stefansson for your recitation—and thank you sweet singers and accompanist—thank you all for everything.

Excerpts From Dr. Steinson's Address

Given at the Icel. Can. Club Concert

Dr. Steinson at the outset of his address said he had always felt proud of being known as an Icelander—although he admitted being an unorthodox one—for in spite of the fact that since his boyhood he had not had the opportunity to associate extensively with his countrymen, he had as a youth begun to realize the extent of the cultural and literary contribution they had made to the world. To show that these contributions are recognized by scholars of other countries Dr. Steinson read several excerpts from the writings of some eminent English authors dealing with the settlement of Iceland. These writers gave high praise to the founders of Iceland and their succeeding generations for their physical prowess, courage, tenacity and adventurous spirit. Moreover, they possessed the human qualities of hospitality and a desire for comradeship in spite of being highly individualistic.

These writers further characterized the Icelanders as a highly democratic people who rejected submission or subjection in any form. Above all they were masters in giving literary expression to their thoughts and beliefs to such an extent that they were responsible for producing the most authentic records of early northern civilization

for several hundred years. Later came the era of economic adversity and political oppression by foreign powers which in a large measure influenced migrations to America. This eventually resulted in the formation of our Icelandic Canadian settlements whose members, in spite of a totally new and strange environment, have made their contribution to the building of the Canadian nation. Dr. Steinson said that he felt, however, that we should not be content to live in the glories of past accomplishments of our forefathers. We, as an ethnic group, would and could be measured only in terms of our continued present-day contributions to our society. "So far our record of contributions has been good, but we must not make the mistake of over-emphasizing or glorifying past contributions". Greater responsibilities and problems lie ahead. Our task is not completed, nor are our opportunities to make further contributions ended. New times bring new problems requiring new solutions and new attitudes. We cannot afford to sit back gloating over past accomplishments or idly day-dreaming of the future. "**Our time is now.**" We must make as good, or a better contribution to society now than our ancestors did in the past. Although

past experiences may help in meeting new difficulties we should continually be looking for newer and sounder methods of solving our more complex present-day problems.

Dr. Steinson then briefly explained how the "Field Theory" applies to our society. We operate in a field of social space. We influence the field which in turn influences us. We as a group can only understand our significance to society as a whole by understanding the social field in its entirety. It was only after the discovery of laws which apply to the universe as a whole that the scientists understood the nature and the power of the atom. In the same way the critic judges and evaluates a work of art as a whole, not by studying its individual parts. The same procedure must be followed in studying society. We cannot form a true picture by studying individual portions; we must first fit together the component parts and examine the whole in relation to its parts. Only such procedure will reveal that **"the whole is greater than the sum of its parts"**. The task that confronts us now is to make a thorough study of the psychology of group procedure and learn to work in

groups with the thought in mind of bringing forth a product superior to that which could have been produced by any individual member of the group.

Dr. Steinson then pointed out the necessity and importance of examining critically the form of our present-day democracy to determine whether it is a "talk democracy" where we fail to act on the things we believe in, or whether it is a "consent democracy" in which the individual is a sort of abstraction, merely representing a vote, or whether we have a true "do democracy" in which we not only talk and plan but also act on the things we believe in, by effective participation in wider spheres seemingly outside our immediate concern.

In conclusion Dr. Steinson pointed out the essential qualities for effective world citizenship: world mindedness, courage, tenacity of purpose to do the things we profess to believe right, and above all spirit of co-operation. These were some of the characteristics of our forefathers which enabled them to survive centuries of adversity. Do we possess them?

J. K. L.

THE ICELANDIC CANADIAN

EDITORIAL BOARD: Holmfridur Danielson, Chairman, 869 Garfield St., Winnipeg, Can.; Judge W. J. Lindal, 788 Wolseley Ave.; Heimir Thorgrimson, 627 Agnes St.; Halldor J. Stefansson, 296 Baltimore Rd., and Jon K. Laxdal, 39 Home St.

NEWS EDITORS: Stefania Eydal, 745 Alverstone St.; Margret Petursson, 45 Home St.

WAR SERVICE RECORD: Mattie Halldorson, 213 Ruby St.

BUSINESS MANAGER: Grace Thorsteinson, Ste. E, Eggertson Apts.

CIRCULATION MANAGER: Hjalmur F. Danielson, 869 Garfield St.

Authorized as second class mail, Post Office Department, Ottawa

Old Caravan Trail To Shoal Lake

By Frank Ward

To-day we often hear the cry "Times are hard! jobs are scarce and pay cheques are too low to get by on!" In reality even if these are times of stress, they are also times of luxury, —probably the best times many of us will ever witness.

In contrast let us go back to 1890 and look in on a settlement to the north of Shoal Lake, about seventy miles north-west of Winnipeg. At that time a branch line of the C.P.R. ran north to Stonewall. The Canadian Northern (C.N.R.) reached Oak Point in 1904, and Lundar a few years later. Its present terminus is Gypsumville. Other lines between the lakes were built still later, the one to Arborg not until 1910.

Shoal Lake, with no inlet or outlet, is fed by local run-off, and by springs, and varies in depth from some twenty feet when the water-tables are high to depths of only a few inches in dry periods such as the thirties. In the late eighties and early ninties the lake was at its low point and the receding waters had left large stretches of hayland and pasture suitable for the raising of livestock.

A colony of Icelanders settled in this area, called the Shoal Lake settlement. In those far-off days Post Offices were established and some of the first ones, such as Otto, Markland and Vestfold received mail once a week,—if roads permitted.

Among the early settlers were the Lindals, Halldorssons, Snidals, Vigfusson, Eyolfsons, Freemans, Sigurdsons, Danielsons, several unrelated families of Johnsons and the Thorkelsons, among many others. Homesteads were

filed on, (\$10.00 for one quarter-section or 160 acres). One had to live on the Homestead at least six months in each of three years and make certain improvements. At the end of it, if all requirements had been met, a patent was issued and you became a land-owner. Taxes amounted to about five to seven dollars per year per quarter-section, providing each owner performer two days' statute labor on the road each year. Some of the old-timers called it **statue labor**, which was quite fitting as the work performed was in many cases but a poor imitation of the real thing.

Summer roads to any points outside the settlement were almost non-existent and supplies for the year had to be freighted in in early spring, before the frost went out of the ground, or in late fall when the trail was dryer or possibly frozen. In 1895 our family settled just south of the settlement and it was here that we became acquainted with the settlers. We had a large house and also ample room in the barn and they used to stop overnight at our place when travelling to and from Winnipeg, especially in winter travel. If they travelled during the summer they usually camped out.

Extreme poverty as regards money and worldly goods applied to all of us at that time, and there was no social service, Red Cross, or other sources of help available. Prices for all farm produce were very low. Butter in summer was 8—12 cents a pound, and in winter 10—15 cents, if sold privately; pork and beef, by the side or whole carcass, was 2 cents per pound.

When freighting their supplies in

winter the settlers always travelled in convoy, and on a cold winter evening there would arrive at our place anywhere from five to ten teams, of horses or oxen, or even a mixed team of one horse and one ox, pulling one sleigh. The bobsleighs were hand-made after the pattern of those made in a factory, while most of the harness was made from raw cowhide leather produced on the farm. Caps and footwear were made of cowhide and fur, while mittens, scarves etc. were made from wool produced on the farm. There might be one to three men to each team, including possibly men or women going to or from work in Winnipeg, and each sleigh was loaded down with produce. They reached our home after a slow day's travel in bitter zero weather, Stonewall being the next overnight stop. If everything went well they would arrive in Winnipeg on the evening of the third day. On the return journey the same stopping-places were utilized and if the travellers were not storm bound anywhere during the trip they arrived home on the evening of the seventh day.

The city-bound cargo would consist of, possibly, 200 pounds of butter, 1,000 pounds of beef, pork and lamb with cheese and various other produce bringing the load up to about 1,500 pounds, which was about capacity for the teams, and for the homemade sleighs in sub-zero weather.

In looking over old diaries and journals kept by my father through the years, I find that this 1,500 pound cargo would bring only about \$80.00 in cash, and for this the settlers had to buy a whole year's supply of flour, sugar, coffee, tobacco and the other bare necessities. It is true that sugar in quantity could be bought for \$3.50 per 100 pounds, overalls for \$1.00 a pair, shoes for \$1.50 to \$2.00 a pair, \$1.75

for Four-X, low grade flour, per 100 pounds, while plug tobacco was about 33% of present prices. The cost overnight at our homestead was 15 cents for man and team with all the hay they could use. They carried their own bedding and food supplies.

To start with, almost all the settlers had a very limited quantity of livestock and augmented their meagre income by working in the harvest fields in autumn, some of them going to Portage La Prairie and Glenboro. They would also take labor if available. Despite their best efforts their income was small and considerable hardship was encountered during those first years. Just imagine three full days' travel with oxen to make seventy miles, the pace so slow that it was often necessary to walk behind the sleigh to keep warm. To-day we can make the same trip by truck or car in two hours, and complain bitterly if the road is rough in spots.

As time passed by, many of these pioneers became owners of large herds of sheep and cattle but rising waters in the lake forced many of them to migrate to more favorable localities, where the land was suited to grain growing as well as livestock. To-day only a few descendants of some of the original settlers remain. The average family to-day spends more, each year on liquor, soft drinks and candy than these pioneers received for a whole year of labor.

When some arm-chair analyst takes his pen in hand and writes of the 'good old days', don't believe him, for he never pioneered in those so-called 'good old days'!

(Ed. Note:— Mr. Frank Ward is married to Johanna, daughter of the late Agust Polson, and Mrs. Elizabet Polson of Winnipeg. Their daughter, Shirley, now Mrs. R. L. Walker of Manitou, has contributed to the Icelandic Canadian.)

WAR SERVICE RECORD



Thor Sigurdson



Ingi Sigurdson

THOR SIGURDSON—Born at Arborg, Man., 1915. Enlisted in 100th C.A.B.T.C. December 1942. Served overseas.

INGI SIGURDSON—Born at Arborg, Man., 1916. Enlisted in Royal Canadian Air Force January 1942. Served overseas.

Sons of Mrs. Magnea and the late Thorgrímur Sigurdson, Arborg, Man.



Pte. OLAFUR FRANKLIN LINDAL—Born in Morden, Man., Apr. 6, 1922. Enlisted Apr. 10, 1943. Trained at Fort Garry and Osborne barracks, Camp Shilo, Man., and Debart, N.S. Embarked Nov. 1943. Was in Italy in 1944 with the Seaforth Highlanders. Wounded Dec. 14, 1944. Returned to Canada March 25, 1945. Discharged July 11, 1945. Son of Mrs. Sigfrður (Kristjánson) and the late Ingimar F. Lindal, Morden, Man.



AGUST SIGURDUR SIGURDSON—Born at Lundar, Man., November 23, 1915. Enlisted in 20th Field Co'y, R.C.E. (Winnipeg) Sept. 24, 1941. Served in England, France, Germany. Discharged February 19, 1946. Son of Mrs. Sigurbjorg Trommberg. Grandson of Guðlaugur and the late Mrs. Sigurdson, Lundar, Man.



Lieut. T. E. Swann



L.S. William John Swann



Signaller E. L. Swann

LIEUT. THOMAS EIRÍKUR SWANN—Born in Winnipeg, October 5, 1914. Enlisted November 1939 in the Cameron Highlanders. Served overseas for four years as mechanical instructor.

“IN MEMORIAM”

L/S. WILLIAM JOHN SWANN—Born in Winnipeg, Man., July 9, 1919. Enlisted in R.C.N. Spring of 1940. He was one of a crew aboard R.C.N. landing craft that ferried the first troops to the French invasion coast. He was leading seaman coxswain. He helped deliver invasion craft into enemy beaches with cargoes of Canadian troops. He passed away Nov. 26, 1946.

SIGNALLER EDWARD LAWRENCE SWANN—Born in Winnipeg, Man., March 13, 1921. Enlisted in R.C.N. in the Spring of 1940. At present is a sergeant in the Canadian Army Engineers at Kingston serving as welding instructor.

SONS OF JOHN AND JOHANNA HELGA (EIRIKSON) SWANN, ARNES, MAN.

Grandsons of the late Guðlaug and Eiríkur Eiríckson.



JAMES ARTHUR INNES—Born at Winnipeg, Man., Nov. 12, 1927. Enlisted April 1943 in the U. S. Navy. Son of Lorne and Petrína (Helgason) Innes, Winnipeg, Man. Grandson of Oddfríður and Ísleifur Helgason, Arnes, Man.



P.F.C. KRISTINN STEFAN JOHNSON—Born in Foam Lake, Sask., May 10, 1922. Inducted into the American Army June 10, 1943. Discharged November 8, 1945. Son of Skuli and Guðrún Johnson, Seattle, Wash.

Versatile Musician At Gimli



Olafur Thorsteinson

For twenty-eight years Olafur Thorsteinson has had a Music Centre at Gimli, Manitoba where he teaches violin, piano and theory. During that time he has had 323 pupils, who have passed examinations prescribed by the Toronto Conservatory of Music. It is a fine tribute to his excellent musicianship and effective teaching methods that of these music students 109 have passed with First Class Honors, 154 with honors, several have received silver medals and one has won a scholarship. He is also a maker of fine violins which are considered among the best of these instruments made in Canada.

Mr. Thorsteinson,—Oli, as he is usually called,—has with his successful teaching, and with his varied activities in the musical field, given a rich cultural endowment to his community and to this country at large. He has con-

ducted violin quartets, and larger string ensembles as well as dance orchestras which are well known and appreciated all over the New Iceland settlement.

Oli was born May 11, 1884 in Fjarðarkoti, Mjóafjörður, Iceland, his parents being Thorsteinn Jónsson and his wife Ingibjörg Einarsdóttir. They came to America when Oli was two years old and settled in North Dakota, in the so-called sand hills near Mountain. Three years later they moved to New Iceland, locating about four miles south of Gimli, at Húsavík (now Husavick).

When about fifteen years old Oli left home to work at harvesting and the following year he went to Winnipeg where he learnt the carpenters' trade. Here he started taking violin lessons, but had already played that instrument from the age of eleven. His first teachers were Páll S. Dalman and Thorsteinn Johnston and later he took lessons from W. G. Rutherford who had a summer home at Sandy Hook two miles south of Husavick.

He began studying piano with Jonas Pálsson about 1916 or 17, and studied with him until Pálsson moved from Winnipeg shortly after 1930. This noted teacher implanted in him a rich store of musical values and gave added momentum to his musical ambition and artistic temperament.

In 1904 Oli married Kristín Skagfeld and to them were born two sons, Edward and Andres, who both are married and live on the original farm at Husavick. Mrs. Thorsteinson passed away in 1930. "Then the two boys and I 'batched' for a while", says Oli, "with me as 'chief cook and bottle washer'".

He was married again in 1937 to

Mrs. Thura Jonasson and they live in one of the little group of houses on the old farm. These include a general store and Post Office managed by Edward and Andres. "I have never actually farmed on the place," says Oli, "I guess I was too lazy". But we get the impression, rather of a very energetic and a busy man in the cultural sphere. For a period of time he was engaged in work as a building contractor, but the latter years have been given over completely to his teaching and other musical activities.

Oli Thorsteinson started to play his violin at the community dances when only thirteen years of age, and during the period between 1914-28 he played for dances in all the New Iceland communities and south along the Gimli line: Riverton, Gimli, Arborg, Minerva, Husavick, Winnipeg Beach, Mattlock and Petersfield. Usually he only had one or two other instrumentalists with him as he never gave himself time to rehearse a regular dance orchestra, except for special occasions such as the Icelandic Celebrations or the big Old Time dances held annually at Gimli for many years. "I had no gift for playing jazz," says Oli, "although I play both the clarinet and saxophone."

For his annual student recitals Oli rehearses a string orchestra, comprising sometimes as many as sixteen members, but he is too busy to keep up these rehearsals all the year round, but his very fine string quartet was a regular feature of his musical activities for six or seven years.

He has started a number of pupils off on a musical career. The best known of these is Palmi Palmason, violinist with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra. He bought one of Oli's violins, as did Johannes Palsson, Stefan Guttormsson and many others of his most promising pupils. Altogether Oli has made at least twenty violins.

Like many another artist Oli enjoys steeping himself in cultural subjects outside of his own particular sphere of endeavor. He is a thorough student of the classical literature of Iceland as well as English and continental literature. He seems to have a very tender spot in his heart for the Icelandic poets, who have been, he feels, the vital force in the stream of Iceland's culture through the ages. "I try to read them all", he says, "or at least all the best ones, and my daily companion is the poetry of Guttormur J. Guttormsson".

Oli is also something of a connoisseur in his taste for drama and says he has had much enjoyment in watching the performances of the best actors among the Icelandic Canadians, as well as of those who have come from Iceland to give performances here.

Just now Oli is taking a breathing spell after putting his theory pupils through their paces before the late February exams, but the spring exams are ahead so he is not relaxing until they are passed, for naturally he takes a certain pride as well as enjoyment out of having so many of his pupils at the head of the honor list! **H. D.**

Subscribe to The Icelandic Canadian

Three Popular Concerts

The three annual concerts held during the three-day convention of the Icelandic National League, were all very well attended, and offered very fine programmes as entertainment.

On Monday evening, Feb. 26, 'Frón' the Winnipeg chapter of the League held its concert in the I.O.G.T. hall. Unfortunately the hall only seats about three hundred people so a large number of people, some of them quite elderly, never got seats at all, which naturally diminished their enjoyment of the program.

The Swedish Male Voice choir, which has a number of Icelandic members sang two groups of songs under the direction of Arthur Anderson, Rev. Eric H. Sigmar of Glenboro, gave a group of solos, accompanied by Sigrid Bardal, and there were two original poems read by Dr. Beck and E. P. Jonsson.

Valdimar Bjornson, the newly elected treasurer for the State of Minnesota, was guest speaker. He spoke about his trip to Iceland last summer, about the value of upholding our cultural traditions here, and also, about the political situation in Northern Europe: Norway, Sweden, and Finland in particular. Mrs. E. P. Jonsson, president of 'Frón' was in the chair.

The Annual concert of the Icelandic Canadian Club was held the following evening in the First Lutheran Church, attended by about 450 persons. The program had a sparkling variety of entertainment to offer, with the Daniel McIntyre operatic group again setting the pace for a lively evening. Under the able leadership of Miss Lilia Eylands, they gave the audience a rollicking good time with their

peppy numbers from the "Gondoliers". Lilia was one of the principals in the operetta when the school put on the "Gondoliers" at the Playhouse Theatre earlier in the winter, and there she got a rousing ovation from the press and public. One of the daily papers said: "One of the best sung and acted roles was that of Tessa, with Lilia Eylands, pretty blond Miss, entering into the character of her role with such spontaneity and relish that she captivated the audience".

Even if our audience at the Icelandic Canadian concert missed out on hearing Lilia sing this time, they benefited nevertheless from her poise and effective speaking voice as she explained the song sequences in a charming manner, so that the audience could follow the action of each group of solos and choral numbers.

Thora Asgeirson gave a brilliant performance with her piano numbers. Her progress in piano playing has been rapid these last years and she has a technical perfection that never obtrudes, but only enhances her warm and personal interpretation of the music.

Mrs. Elma Gislason sang the aria "Riterno Vincitor", from 'Aida' by Verdi, and a group of songs with the melody by O. Hallson of Eriksdale, and the words by Dr. S. E. Bjornson.

Rev. V. J. Eylands showed some very excellent colored films of Icelandic scenery, with a commentary on them. W. Kristjanson, the club's president was in the chair.

A brief summary of Dr. Steinson's address is given elsewhere in this issue of the magazine.

Following the concert the club held

a reception at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Kristjanson, where Dr. Steinson and his charming wife had the opportunity to meet some former acquaintances and the members of the executive and several out of town guests.

Icel. Nat. League Concert, was held Feb. 28, in the First Lutheran church, and was well attended. The program was one of the best they have had, at these annual concerts, with vocal solos by Inga Bjarnason, and Albert Hall-dorson, violin solos by Palmi Palma-

son, a reading by Ragnar Stefansson, Valdimar Björnson was again the guest speaker.

Dr. T. J. Oleson, vice president of the League was in the chair. At the close of the concert honorary membership in the League was presented to A. S. Bardal, Olafur Petursson and Dr. A. H. S. Gillson, president of the University of Manitoba.

At elections during the afternoon meeting of the convention, all members of the executive were re-elected.

In The News

SPEAKER AT CONCERT

A noted orator, **Dr. S. W. Steinson** of Saskatoon, was the guest speaker at the annual concert of the Icelandic Canadian club, Feb. 27. Dr. Steinson has had a brilliant career in the field of Education.



Dr. Steinson is the son of Torfi Steinson and his wife Palina Hjalmarson. Torfi came to the Argyle district in the middle nineties, and Palina is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jon Hjalmarson early pioneers in Argyle. The Steinsons moved to Kandahar, Sask., in 1910 and Bill Steinson went to school at Kandahar, and Saskatoon, graduating from the University of Saskatchewan. Later he taught at Wynyard and at Yorkton and is the originator of the **Yorkton Plan**, a new and improved method of teaching.

Dr. Steinson received his Ph.D. in Education from the University of California, and has done outstanding work

in Education Improvement. In 1950 he came to the Provincial Normal school in Saskatoon where he holds the position of Co-ordinator of Guidance of Learning Program.

During his junior years at College Dr. Steinson was champion orator. He is married and has two children.

★

MISS SVEINSON, SUPERVISOR

The main qualification for serving as a night supervisor, according to **Miss Sophia Sveinson**, R.N., who holds that most important position at Seaside Hospital, Long Beach, Calif., is being a good "trouble shooter". In other words, anything may happen, and usually does! Miss Sveinson is responsible for assignment and direction of the night staff of nurses and nursing aides, being on duty from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m.

Miss Sveinson's nursing education was acquired at Regina, Sask., culminating in her winning Dr. Low's gold medal for general proficiency, at the time of graduation. Not to be outdone, her sister, **Aldis Sveinson**, R.N., who is on the OB night staff at the same hospital, graduated in the same class

and received a gold watch for "the highest standing in obstetrics".

Sophia and Aldis were both born in North Dakota, but came with their parents to Wynyard, Sask, shortly after the year 1900. Their father Sigurjón Sveinsson came from Iceland in 1873 to Milwaukee, Wis. In the year 1879 he was with the first small group to come to the North Dakota settlement, with him was Thorlakur Jónsson and his two sons, Rev. N. S. Thorlakson and Rev. Páll Thorlakson. Sigurjón took a homestead in the Gardar district, and with one other Iclander, was the first settler there. He married Valgerður Thorlákssdóttir, sister of the two pastors, N. S. and Páll.

After graduation Sophia Sveinsson was a floor Supervisor at Regina Hospital, took a postgraduate course in supervision at Cook County Hospital, Chicago, was night supervisor at Trinity Hospital, Minot, N. D. and floor supervisor at the San Jose Hospital, coming to Seaside in 1936. After "relieving in all departments" she became night supervisor.

Sophia and her sister, Aldis, own their own home, at 2250 Eucalyptus St. They have most interesting hobbies, and Sophia's at least, is very unusual. It is numismatics! In case you don't know the meaning of the word we will explain that it is—coin collecting. She has coins from every country, and a sample of every penny and nickle issued by the United States treasury. Her sister collects stamps.

★

Miss Joan Bergman and **Miss Frances Abbott**, Winnipeg Winter Club figure skaters, retained their 1951 title in the Western Canadian Pair Championships, held at Saskatoon, Sask., January 19th and 20th, over a field of five other entries, winning the Glenora trophy again. The pair

showed fine timing and rythm throughout their performance. They are also the Senior pair Club Champions.

Joan won first place in the intermediate ladies at the annual Winnipeg Winter Club championships staged March 16.

Joan placed second in the Junior Ladies singles, which had 13 competitors, after having the lead in the compulsory school figures. Joan and Frances also skated at Selkirk, Man., March 2, and 3, at the carnival held there annually. Joan is now working on her 7th figure skating test, Frances has her 8th test (the Gold Medal,) the highest award in skating. She is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. A. C. Abbott of Winnipeg. Joan is of Icelandic descent, being the daughter of John Bergman and his wife Oddny (Sigurdson) Bergman, formerly of Arborg, Man. Mr. and Mrs. Bergman and Joan are all members of the Icelandic Can. Club.

★



Miss Thora Sigurdson has been appointed secretary to Hon. D. L. Campbell, Premier of Manitoba. She succeeds William Bertrand Fraser who has been appointed assistant director of the travel and publicity bureau.

Miss Sigurdson is a 1946 B.A. graduate from the University of Manitoba, having majored in political economy. In her second year (1944) at the university she won the Sellers Scholarship of \$100.00.

Employed with the Manitoba government since October, 1947, as assistant to the economic adviser, Miss Sigurdson has done general research work, including projects on federal-provincial relations, freight rates and municipal finance.

Last December she attended the federal-provincial conference in Ottawa as a member of the provincial delegation.

Miss Sigurdson is a daughter of Sigurbjorn Sigurdson and his wife Kristbjorg (Vopni) Sigurdson, of 937 Minto St., Winnipeg.

★

WINS SCHOLARSHIPS



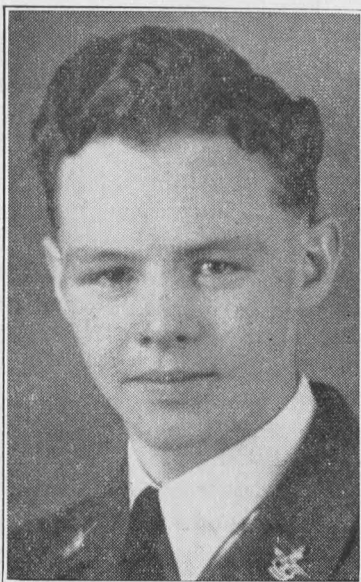
Louis Lorne Campbell graduated in the spring of 1950 from the University of Manitoba with a B.Sc. (Honors) degree. He took the five-year Honors course in physics and mathematics. On graduating from Kelvin High School (grade 11,) he won the Isbister Scholar-

ship, and during four subsequent years at the University he won an Isbister Scholarship.

After graduation last spring Lorne was awarded the National Research Council scholarship worth \$450.00, but did not accept it as he had obtained a Fellowship at Iowa State College at Ames, Iowa, which was to the value of \$75.00 a month for nine months, plus tuition, and this afforded him the chance to work towards his Master's degree. At the same time he gives lectures in Physics to first year students.

Lorne is the son of Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Campbell, of Winnipeg. Mrs. Campbell is Jonina Solveig, daughter of the late Arni Johnson and his wife Guðríður, who lives at 737 Alverstone St., Winnipeg.

★



Jonas C. Sigurgeirson received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1950 from Concordia College, Moorehead, Minn., majoring in Psychology and Sociology. Jonas is very active in sports, especially hockey where his ability as a goalie

is outstanding. He is also a music student, having a deep interest in that field. On entering United College (Winnipeg) in 1944 Jonas was awarded

the Logie Butchart Bursary of \$70.00. He is the only son of Rev. Skuli Sigurgeirson and his wife Sigríður (Doll) Sigurgeirson of Foam Lake, Sask.

★

WIN ANNUAL COASTER CLASSIC IN MONTREAL



The annual coaster classic (sometimes called the midget auto races for boys) was held in Montreal, Saturday, June 17, 1950 under the sponsorship of the Montreal Kinsmen. Sixty boys, whose ages ranged from nine to fifteen, raced in weird and magnificent motorless, home-made vehicles, down a 200-yard down-hill stretch at Duluth Ave., in driving rain and wind, while worried parents watched anxiously, trusting hopefully that the straw barriers erected by Kinsmen at strategic positions, would prove adequate to prevent accidents.

After the excitement of the race was over, the smiling winners were photographed by the press and were later given a handsome spread in the Monday papers.

Wayne Thompson, nine, of Lachine, Que., won a handsome trophy, the

Harwood cup, as well as a bicycle, his car being the fastest in the plain bearing class. His brother **Allen**, who had the previous year won a similar trophy as first prize in the Lachine annual race, also placed in his class and won a smaller prize. Allen is now eleven years old.

Allen and Wayne are the sons of Thornton (Thordur) Thompson and his wife Rose. They are grandsons of Einar and Konkordia Thompson of Winnipeg. Einar hails from the district of Njall and Gunnar, famous Icelandic Saga characters, being from Rauðafell (við Eyjafjöll) in Rangárvallasýsla.

Thordur Thompson served with the RCAF in the last war and is now a member of the 426th Airforce Squadron which is Canada's Air Contribution to United Nations. He was recently transferred to Tacoma, Wash.,

first being stationed for a month and a half in Japan. In 1950 he flew to England, San Francisco, and Alaska, and then went on a long training trip which took him to England, France, Egypt, Malta, Gibraltar, West Afrika, Brazil, Trinidad and Bermuda. He is now training as a Flight Engineer and will likely soon be making regular trips to Japan.

His two brothers also served in the second World War. They are: F. O. John Thompson, D.F.C., and P. O. Magnus S. Thompson, who served with the RCNVR.

★



Thora Helgadóttir

author of the article: 'Our Children' on page 19.

★

WIN SENIOR PINS FOR MERIT

Three students of Icelandic descent studying at the Foam Lake Composite High School, have during the last two years won Senior Pins, on graduating from High School.

These annual awards were instituted at the Foam Lake High School in 1949, through the generosity of the Nightingale Rebekah Lodge, No. 121, and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, being given to the outstanding graduate among girls and boys, respectively.

The winners of the first Senior Pins were **Sylvia Bjornson** and **Thordy Kolbinson**. Sylvia is a versatile student who was active in all school activities, as well as music, Girl Guides and Sunday School work. She is now training for a nurse at St. Pauls Hospital in Saskatoon. Thordy was the capable Student Government president. He excels in athletics, especially baseball and football, and was also trumpeter in the school band. He is studying Pharmacy at the University of Saskatchewan.

In 1950 the Senior Pin for girls was won by **Signy Bjornson** who was a highly qualified leader in many school activities, she took part in committee work, the band, Sunday School, and social work. She was also the hard-working pianist who accompanied the school songs at the annual concert. Signy is attending business college in Saskatoon.

Signy and Sylvia are daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Skuli Bjornson of Foam Lake and Thordy is the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Kolbinson of the same town.

★

Marjory Sæmundson graduated in 1950 from the University of Washington, as Bachelor of Science in Nursing, and also received a Certificate of Nursing Supervision. She is a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Sorority. Marjory is the daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Kolbeinn Sæmundson of Seattle, Washington.



Miss Elin Anderson was born in Selkirk, Manitoba, where she received her elementary schooling, also at the Tache High School in Winnipeg. She graduated from Wesley College, Winnipeg, and obtained her M.A. degree at Columbia University. She also received a diploma from the New York School of Social Science.

After graduating from the New York School of Social Science, she returned to Winnipeg in 1936 and became associated with the Family Bureau as social director when it was established in Winnipeg.

In 1937 Miss Anderson wrote a book entitled "We Americans", a social survey of the American Community of Burlington, Vermont, for which she was awarded the John Anisfield prize of \$1,000.

Miss Anderson's active career both as a social welfare worker and in the literary field was cut short at her untimely death, last January 4th.

Miss Anderson was the daughter of the late John Anderson and Mrs. Ruth Anderson of Elmwood.

ICELANDIC CANADIAN BILLIARD CHAMPIONS

Winnipeg has the largest Billiard League in Canada, which has been active for over twenty years. Started by veterans of World War I, and known as the veterans' Billiard League, it is sponsored by all Veterans' organizations, such as the Canadian Legion, Army, Navy, Airforce, and Imperial Veterans' clubs.

For the annual championships, twenty teams are entered in two divisions of ten teams each, with six players to each team. It may be said that one hundred and twenty of the best billiard players in Winnipeg take part in this competition. The Icelandic Canadians are represented by the following players: Joe Johannesson, Randver Sigurdson, Eric Goodman, Frank Halderson, Paul Bardal and Neil Bardal.

This year the winners in the semi-finals were two teams from the same club, the Weston Legion, and the captains on these two teams are the Icelandic Canadians, Paul Bardal and Neil Bardal, with Frank Halderson as one of the members of Neil's team. This is, to say the least, a most interesting situation, for no matter what happens in the finals, which are scheduled for next week, the championship has already been won by the Weston club, and will furthermore be retained by the Bardal family, as the cousins, Paul and Neil, battle it out: Weston versus Weston, and Bardal versus Bardal! This is surely a unique record!

BISHOP JÓN ARASON

(Continued from page 12)

the diocese of Hólar, although he and his son Ari wrote respectfully to the king, saying they would recognize him as long as the monarch should observe the old laws of the country. The king did not attempt to impose the new religion in the northern diocese and Bishop Jón continued to insist that the highest authority in religious matters as far as he was concerned was the now non-existent Archbishop and chapter of Trondhjem. Bishop Jón also made an accommodation with Bishop Gizur Einarsson in 1542 and the two did not interfere with one another as long as Gizur lived.

The only attempt the king seems to have made to influence Jón Arason in religious matters was to summon the bishop abroad for consultation in 1542. Such a summons was illegal and contrary to the provisions of the Old Covenant (1262-1264). Nevertheless, although the bishop pleaded his inability to attend at the court by reason of his old age and feebleness he sent abroad his son and two other emissaries. In his letter to the king he promised to observe whatever terms the envoys should agree to "as far as I can, am permitted and able to do." However, nothing is known of what passed between the king and the bishop's plenipotentiaries, but all royal decrees in religious matters were applied only to the diocese of Skálholt until 1548.

In that year Bishop Gizur died and the situation changed radically. According to the old custom the choice of a new bishop fell to the Archbishop and chapter of Nidaros but these were no longer in existence. In fact the highest religious authority over the Icelandic church in communion with

Rome, was Bishop Jón Arason, since he held legatine powers which had been granted him by the Archbishop of Nidaros about 1533. Through these powers in the absence of a Norwegian metropolitan he seems to have regarded himself as *in loco archiepiscopi*. The election of a new bishop in Skálholt would therefore be his business.

IV

Shortly after the death of Bishop Gizur, Jón Arason visited Skálholt and convoked a synod there at which a staunch Catholic, Abbot Sigvarður Halldórsson, was elected bishop. About the same time, however, the Protestant clergy and laymen elected Rev. Marteinn Einarsson as bishop. The two bishops-elect went abroad to secure the royal assent to their election. Rev. Marteinn Einarsson received it, of course. The abbot never returned to Iceland dying in Denmark in 1550, probably a convert to Lutheranism.

Possibly on the advice of Bishop Marteinn Einarsson, the king now began to interfere in the affairs of the diocese of Hólar. His first step was to summon Bishop Jón Arason abroad, but he scorned to obey the illegal summons. Instead he advanced to Skálholt with a force of about 100 men. There, however, the adherents of Bishop Marteinn under the leadership of his brother Pétur and of Daði Guðmundsson had gathered, prepared to defend the place. Bishop Jón did not therefore venture to attack.

Daði Guðmundsson was the man who was finally to overthrow Bishop Jón. He was a peaceful but determined man and one of the richest landowners in Iceland. He was cautious, prudent and sagacious. Up to this time he had been on good terms with Bishop Jón Arason and had been a friend of both Bishop Ögmundur Pálsson and Bishop

Gizur Einarsson. He was a brother-in-law of the new Bishop Marteinn. Daði indeed found it necessary to be on good terms with the highest prelates for he had time and again to seek absolution for his numerous adulteries and illegitimate children. He was a minor royal official and, although a layman, a provost of the church in his bailiwick. Worldly honours do not seem to have had much attraction for him. His adherence to Lutheranism after 1548 seems to have been opportunistic.

Bishop Jón did not accept defeat but proceeded to take action against Daði. He had him condemned on seven counts by a court of twelve clerics in the fall of 1548. Daði, in his turn, submitted documents to a jury of six men, summoned by the lawman Ormur Sturluson, who cleared him. Bishop Jón's reply to this was the formal excommunication of Daði 2 January 1549, but Daði did not bow before the ban of the church.

The issue was now fully joined. Bishop Jón seems to have determined to fight to the bitter end for the old faith and the rights of his country. The king, on the other hand, seems to have determined to scotch this minion of Antichrist, introduce the true faith and thus make his royal power effective everywhere. In February 1549 the king outlawed Bishop Jón, although legally a sentence of outlawry could only be passed by the Alþing. He then addressed himself to Daði Guðmundsson, ordering him to arrest Bishop Jón and his sons.

Bishop Jón attempted to strengthen himself. He had written Pope Paul III in 1548, and in 1549 received the pope's reply. This heartened him greatly. About this time the bishop also seems to have written letters to Emperor Charles V but it is not known

whether he received any response and certainly the emperor does not seem to have attempted to coerce Christian III. It should be noticed that in Bishop Jón's eyes, King Christian III was no longer king but a tyrant who was subverting the sovereign law, the maintenance of which is the duty of all men.

Bishop Marteinn came to Iceland in 1549 and published at the Alþing the royal decree outlawing Bishop Jón, who was not in attendance, nor did the Alþing pronounce sentence of outlawry. It was not long before Bishop Jón replied to this act of Bishop Marteinn. He sent his two sons Ari and Björn at the head of an armed force into the southern diocese. There they took Bishop Marteinn prisoner and also Rev. Árni Arnórsson. Both prisoners were taken north to Hólar. Rev. Árni was later released after his wife had paid a ransom and he had promised never again to oppose the bishop. He suffered some ill treatment during captivity, but the bishop seems to have been well treated although kept in somewhat close confinement. Early in 1550 Bishop Jón excommunicated Rev. Gísli Jonsson who was forced to flee the country. Such was Bishop Jón's power at this time and such fear did these acts inspire that even Daði Guðmundsson seems to have considered making his peace with the Bishop.

Bishop Jón ruled Iceland almost as a king in 1550. Matters were relatively calm until the Alþing of that year. Bishop Jón and his sons attended it at the head of large forces bringing with them their prisoner, the Bishop of Skálholt. In spite of the presence of the royal governor, Laurentius Mule, Bishop Jón did as he pleased at the Alþing.

At its conclusion he rode to Skálholt which his enemies did not attempt to

defend. At this time, he took complete charge of the place. His first act was to purify the defiled cathedral. He then caused the body of Bishop Gizur Einarsson to be exhumed and tossed into a pit. Several new priests were ordained and the bishop performed other episcopal functions. Several clergymen declared or were forced to declare their acceptance of papal Christianity. So secure did the Bishop feel that he released Bishop Marteinn. It is said that it was at this time that Bishop Jón uttered the famous words: 'Nú hef eg undir mér allt Ísland, utan hálfan annan kotungs son' (Now is in my power all of Iceland, except one peasant and half another). The Bishop is said to have meant by this some unidentified man and Daði Guðmundsson, although the latter proved more than half a man.

From Skálholt the Bishop proceeded to the monastery of Viðey which the Danes had dissolved in 1539. He drove out the Danes and restored monastic life, re-instating the old Abbot Alexius. Bishop Jón then went to Helgafell and restored monastic observance there also. After performing episcopal duties in various places he returned to Hólar.

V

Until October, Bishop Jón made no move. Then with his two sons, Björn and Ari he rode south to Daði Guðmundsson's estate of Sauðafell which Ari claimed as his. It is almost certain that the lawman Ormur Sturlusson had already summoned a court to meet there on 2 October to decide the dispute between the Bishop and Daði. Our authorities are not agreed as to what took place on this historic occasion. However, matters seem to have proceeded in this fashion.

The two parties met with the lawman at Sauðafell. When the lawman

attempted to proclaim the þing in session, Daði objected and proposed the postponement of the whole matter to the next session of the Alþing. It soon became evident that the þing could not be held. Bishop Jón then placed himself and his men in the protection of the king and the lawman placed them in the **grith and frith** of the king. Daði, however, showed himself likely to attack the bishop. The latter, with his sons and their followers, then retreated to the church, Daði attacked, forcibly removed them from the church and made the bishop and his two sons prisoners. In so doing Daði was guilty of a heinous crime for he broke both the peace of the þing and the sanctuary rights which the church guaranteed to all men.

Daði took his prisoners to his estate of Snóksdalur and sent word to the governor's representative, Christian surnamed the Secretary, who came at once. On 23 October 1550 a twelve-man jury declared the prisoners rightly taken by Daði, freed him from further responsibility for them and handed them into the custody of Christian, who was charged to "safeguard them well until the next Öxarárþing (Alþing)" The question then arose who was to keep the prisoners in safe custody until the following summer. Daði Guðmundsson, Bishop Marteinn Einarsson and Christian the Secretary gave this matter careful consideration at Skálholt whither they had brought the prisoners. They all feared the Northerners would attempt to rescue their bishop. Finally it was agreed that the three should be put to death. Who was the instigator of this proposal is not definitely established, but there is a story, that when the matter was being debated, Rev. Jón Bjarnason (the steward of Skálholt) spoke up and said, that although he was the most

foolish of them all, he knew a method of keeping the prisoners. When asked what this was, he replied: "The axe and the earth will keep them best." However that may be, either Bishop Marteinn or Christian could have prevented the execution of the death sentence at any time.

In the early morning hours of 7 Nov. 1550, the three were led out to execution. Ari was the first and is said to have been offered his life if he swore never to take revenge, but he rejected the offer with these words: "Unwillingly did I enter this game, but now I gladly take my leave of it." He went to the block in a cheerful mood asking the forgiveness of his enemies, and, amidst the lamentations of those present, his neck was severed in one blow.

Rev. Björn Jónsson who followed him is said to have conducted himself unbecomingly. The first blow of the axe dealt him a great wound and he tearfully begged for his life, repeating: "Oh! oh! the children both young and many!" Finally, Daði ordered the executioner to get on with his work and three more blows ended Björn's life.

Bishop Jón was led out last. He carried a cross and his countenance was cheerful. He is said to have been offered his life, but he replied that he wished to accompany his sons. To a northerner present, he spoke as follows: "Since I am about to bid good night to this world and explore another, with other holy men, carry my greetings to my relatives and friends, especially to my daughter. Rev. Sigurður and my son, Þórunn." He then laid his head on the block. At the third blow of the axe he said: "In manus tuas, domine, commendo spiritum meum", and these were the last words he was heard to utter; but at the seventh blow the severance took place.

Thus died the bishop and his two

sons, who, in the words of Bishop Jón's grandson, Magnús Björnsson: "now rest with eternal God in eternal glory in the heavenly realm, but we, the descendants . . . of these praiseworthy dead, commend to Almighty God in heaven . . . those, who did this evil deed to these friends of Jesus Christ . . ."

A cruel revenge was taken by the northerners for the murder of their bishop. Christian the Secretary, and thirteen or fourteen other Danes were slain in the following spring. Some time later Rev. Sigurður Jónsson and his sister Þórunn dispatched a band of men to Skálholt to recover the bodies of the trio. They were granted permission by Bishop Marteinn to disinter them. As the procession made its way to Hólar, bells pealed in all the churches they passed and many people were miraculously healed when they touched or approached the coffins. There is a legend that when the procession came in sight of the cathedral of Hólar, the largest bell, Líkaböng, began to ring of itself and continued ringing until it cracked. The three were buried beneath the floor of the nave where in 1918 their bones were disinterred.

VI

Bishop Jón Arason was the greatest poet of his day but by no means unique. The bulk of his poetic work consists of five long religious poems. Their subject matter deals with the passion of Christ, world history as recorded in the Bible, a commentary on, or expansion of Psalm 51 "Miserere mei deus", Christ's descent into hell, the crucifixion of Christ, the resurrection, the reception of the Paraclete by the apostles, and the second coming of Christ. "It is evident from this poetry that Bishop Jón's faith was fervent and sincere. The poems are touching and simple and at the same time testify to

their author's mastery of diction, metrical skill and good taste."

Bishop Jón also left considerable occasional verse. This is largely satirical or humorous although some of it, especially from his last days, is marked by a melancholy wisdom.

To Bishop Jón Arason belongs the honour of having established the printing press in Iceland. He brought a Swedish printer, Rev. Jón Matthíasson to the country some time in the years 1529-1534. We only know with certainty one work which was printed during Bishop Jón's episcopacy. This is the **Breviarium Holense**, printed 1534. This was a poorly executed copy of the **Breviarium Nidrosiense**, printed in Paris 1519. Only two pages from this first book printed in Iceland are in existence today (in the royal library at Stockholm).

There are, however, good grounds for believing that Bishop Jón translated the Gospels into Icelandic and that this book was printed during his lifetime. If this be so the last copy about which we have information was buried with the pro-Catholic Bishop of Skálholt, Brynjólfur Sveinsson, in the 17th century. Bishop Jón's love of his native tongue makes it entirely in character for him to have done this work.

VII

Bishop Jón Arason is the most venerated hero of the Icelandic people. There are many reasons for this. He died a martyr, unjustly murdered by foreign oppressors who after his day were held responsible for all the troubles and tribulations of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. In the mind of his countrymen he was, as Jón Sigurðsson called him, "the last Iceland", meaning the last to offer resistance to foreign domination. He became the symbol of patriotism, the

greatest patriot of all. With him died the cause he fought for and only tyranny remained.

Bishop Jón was also venerated as a martyr for his faith. Staunch Protestants credit him with miracles. In the ill fate of many of his opponents the Icelanders saw divine retribution at work. He fought for the Roman Catholic Church, the Holy Virgin, and the confessors of the old faith.

Again, his personality was such as to elicit respect and admiration. He was tall and of a commanding presence. He was generous and an excellent host. His wit and humour are amply attested. He was harsh to a few great opponents but never petty. He enforced the law of the church, it is true, but in a charitable fashion, and he did not, as many bishops, ferret out venial transgressions.

He was neither a saint nor a statesman. In many respects he was a worldly bishop and even bore arms in the early years of his career. His impetuosity and precipitancy led him to act in an undiplomatic fashion at times. He had not the patience nor the tact which are required of a statesman.

Towards his children he was a loving father. His affection for his concubine was genuine and constant. He was a dutiful son to his mother. His generosity toward all who helped him rise has often been remarked.

The place he occupies in the hearts of Icelanders was well shown in the observation of the four hundredth anniversary of his death. At Hólar a campanile was dedicated to his memory in the presence of the greatest dignitaries of the land. Numerous laudatory articles, and a new biography of Bishop Jón by Guðbrandur Jónsson appeared. The government recognised his importance by issuing a special stamp showing Bishop Jón in full

Guðlaugur Sigurdson. As a young lad, he got shoved around in the Great Depression, and then served overseas with the Royal Canadian Engineers, in the last war. He has made his way, (by box car) across Canada, and to the Far North. He has worked as a logger, fisherman and "general laborer", he says, in British Columbia. All these experiences are reflected in his verses. He has compassion, too, for struggling humanity and a feeling of kinship with nature and the soil. There is much unevenness of quality to be found in this, his first volume of verse, but on the whole it shows a facile gift for expression on a variety of subjects.

It may be that Sigurdson's verses will in the future be read and recited by the common people, and so become "folk poetry", like the poems of Service, or even Burns. **H. D.**

★

A TRIBUTE TO SOLDIERS AND PIONEERS OF THE LANGRUTH DISTRICT

The above is the title to a book published by the Langruth Community and printed by T. W. Taylor & Co. Ltd. of Winnipeg. The book consists of 227 pages; printing and binding is of a high order and the paper is of excellent quality.

The title is somewhat rare but very significant and full of meaning. Canada, not so long ago uncharted and unsettled, even at the time when the toil of the pioneer was but barely over and ease and comfort seemed to be ahead, was called upon to engage in two world wars. What could be more appropriate than a community record in the form of a tribute to the soldiers and the pioneers!

The opening quotation, from II Timothy 4:7, though designated as being "For Our Boys Who Fell in

1914-18", applies to soldier and pioneer alike:

I have fought a good fight,
I have finished the course,
I have kept faith.

About half the book is devoted to the soldiers. There is a brief sketch of each one, at times a mere note "because those who possessed the information have not presented it." There is a picture of a cenotaph, erected in 1947, built of granite with a bronze plaque on which are inscribed the names of those who made the supreme sacrifice in the two world wars. Unfortunately two names from the first war are not on the plaque—Harold Hilliard and Nursing Sister Agnes McPherson. In the book there are names of 91 Icelandic soldiers—a magnificent contribution from such a small settlement to the defence of the free nations of the world.

The second half of the book centres around the pioneers. The article on "Early Langruth" is by G. W. Langdon, who came to the settlement in 1907. Prior to that time groups of Icelanders had settled in the Big Point and Marshland areas. The article on the Big Point Settlement is by Helga Erlendson Hannesson (Mrs. John Hannesson) and the one on Marshland by Lena Thorleifson (Mrs. Gudni Tholeifson). Mrs. S. L. Bott wrote on the pioneers of Lakeland and Lakeside which comprise the area south of Langruth proper. There are brief sketches on two small settlements, Airedale and Hollywood. The first settler in Airedale was an Icelander, Bjorn Sigurdsson and the first Icelanders in this new Hollywood were Jon Thordarson, Johann Johannson and their families. There is a human touch in the inclusion of a note on the Early Hungarian Settlers, with pic-

tures including one of Father J. Imra Soos.

The emphasis on service, as shown in the title is not the only distinguishing mark of this book. In it there are 288 pictures, very appropriately selected. They include, first of all, pictures of soldiers where available; individual pioneers and pioneer families; primitive shacks, first places of business and modern establishments. There is a picture of Langruth's first resident, A. T. Williams and his temporary home; the first children born in Langruth, Johann and Sigurdur Erlendson. Then there is the picturesque log house with its grass and weed covered sod roof, built on a homestead in 1896. The meaningful expression on the faces of some of the old settlers—a story of toil and grit and conquest. Then the family groups—names which are woven into the warp and woof of the districts activities. All these pictures are of inestimable value and bring the life of the community into such close and clear perspective.

Determination is writ into this record of effort and accomplishment by a pioneering people. There was the struggle for a separate municipality which was formed in 1920 and of which G. F. Thordarson is the present reeve. In Marshland, as elsewhere,

the Icelanders had their community building, félagshús. In 1923 it was dismantled and moved to Langruth and used in the construction of a basement for Langruth's first Community Hall. As funds became available a superstructure was erected and by 1934 Langruth had a community hall of which it was very proud. In October of that year it was totally destroyed by fire. Soon a second hall was erected, an improvement on the first. It met the same fate the following year. Two years later the third hall was built, improved from time to time and now is "a credit to the community".

The last few pages of the book are devoted to community organizations: The Women's Institute; Lutheran, United Church and Berglind Ladies' Aids; Red Cross and various War Workers' groups; the I.O.D.E. and a "Victory Club". There is a Legion Branch in Langruth and a Ladies Auxiliary to the Legion.

Summarizing one can say that for cooperative work and community spirit this book reflects a model community. A generous "Book Committee" pays a merited tribute to Mrs. Gudni Thorleifson and Mrs. John Hannesson "to whose work and unfailing inspiration the production of this book is largely due."

W. J. L.

BONNY PRESENTS:

♦ BONNY WHITE

♦ BONNY BROWN

♦ SWEDISH RYE

Sliced or Plain

CAKES — BUNS — ROLLS

General Bakeries Limited

Nell Johnson, Res. 27 482

Ruth Rowland, Res. 88 790

Nell's Flower Shop

WEDDING BOUQUETS :: CUT FLOWERS :: FUNERAL DESIGNS
CORSAGES :: BEDDING PLANTS

PHONE 23 966

761 NOTRE DAME AVE.

Just West of New Maternity Hospital

FOR THE BEST IN FOOTWEAR

WHERE
QUALITY
COUNTS

Foot comfort—means foot health.
You can be sure of properly
fitted shoes—and shoes in the
latest fashions at . . .

Macdonald
SHOE STORE LTD.

492-4 MAIN ST.

"Just South of the City Hall"

Use **CITY HYDRO**

for low-cost
dependable
electric service



PHONE

968 231

THE BANK OF TORONTO

Established 1855

BRANCHES IN GREATER WINNIPEG

MAIN OFFICE — 454 MAIN ST.
ACADEMY ROAD AND NIAGARA ST.
PORTAGE AVE. AND EDMONTON ST.
SHERBROOK AND WESTMINSTER AVE.

ST. BONIFACE, MAN.
ST. VITAL, MAN.
TRANSCONA, MAN.

The Red + Cross

is

always worthy of
Your Support



This space donated by

Grant's Brewery Limited

WINNIPEG



WATCHES — DIAMONDS
SILVERWARE JEWELLERY

1847 Rogers and Community Flatware
Bone China Dinner Sets —Cups & Saucers
Moderate Prices

Better Quality for Less
447 PORTAGE AVE. — WINNIPEG
Also in Brandon

Eggert S. Feldsted

BOOTH FISHERIES **CANADIAN COMPANY LIMITED**

804 Trust and Loan Building

WINNIPEG MANITOBA

Selkirk, Man. — Winnipegosis, Man. — The Pas, Man.

WINDATT

Coal Co., Limited

Est. 1898



Coal - Coke - Wood



506 PARIS BUILDING

927 404

LICENSE No. 2

John Olafson, Representative

37 340

Three Good Hotels . . .

McLAREN HOTEL

Main & Rupert



LELAND HOTEL

William & Albert



KIRKFIELD HOTEL

Portage at Parkdale
Kirkfield Park, Man.



Fred Dangerfield
Jas. Dangerfield

DODGE — DE SOTO — DODGE TRUCKS

BREEN MOTORS LIMITED

GUARANTEED USED CARS

247 MAIN STREET SOUTH — WINNIPEG, MAN.

Johnson Outboard Motors — Peterborough Boats

**ALWAYS ask your
Grocer for**

"BUTTER-NUT BREAD"

Rich as Butter — Sweet as a Nut

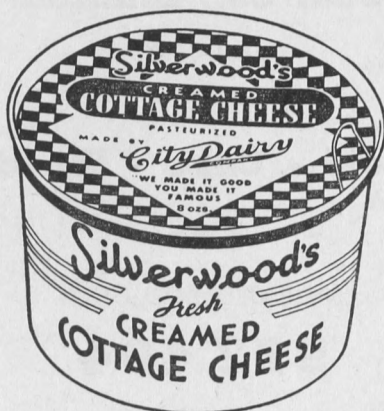


**CANADA BREAD
CO. LTD.**

PHONE 37 144

ALWAYS GOOD

Silverwood



**For Delivery
Telephone - 934 411
CITY DAIRY CO.**

With the Compliments of . . .

S O U D A C K

FUR AUCTION SALES Ltd.

WILLIAM and PRINCESS



Telephone 933 591

WINNIPEG



CANADA

The Dominion Bank

Established 1871

Branches in Greater Winnipeg

Main Office—Main St. & McDermot Ave.

Main St. & Higgins Ave.

Main St. & Redwood Ave.

Broadway Ave. & Donald St.

Notre Dame Ave. & Sherbrook St.

Portage Ave. & Kennedy St.

Portage Ave. & Sherbrook St.

Union Stockyards, St. Boniface, Man.

SELKIRK FISHERIES LTD.

228 CURRY BLDG. — WINNIPEG



Wholesale Distributors of
FRESH and FROZEN FISH

Plastering Stucco Ornamental

H. SIGURDSON & SON LTD.

Plastering Contractors and Builders

H. Sigurdson

1147 Ellice Ave.

Phone 31 670

H. M. Sigurdson

1153 Ellice Ave.

Phone 726 860

Keystone Fisheries Ltd. & Perfection Net & Twine Co.

G. F. Jonasson, Pres. & Man. Director

404 SCOTT BLOCK, WINNIPEG, MAN.

Phone 95 227-8

*Say it
with* **Flowers**
from
The Orchid



Flowers Telegraphed Everywhere
VICTOR SCOTT

311 Donald St. — Phone 93 404-5-6

SATISFACTION

GUARANTEED

shop at the

**SARGENT
PHARMACY**

(Formerly Harman's)

SARGENT & TORONTO

Phone: 23 455

We Deliver

Agent For

**LAURA SECORD
CHOCOLATES**

For
Tender Pastry

Try

J E W E L

a

**Blended Shortening
That Blends
Better**

Compliments of

ROSE & WONDERLAND

WEST END'S LEADING

THEATRES

For
Number One Quality

**Milk
Cream
and
Butter**

PHONE 201 101

MODERN DAIRIES LTD.



Subscribe to

**THE
ICELANDIC CANADIAN**

INDEPENDENT FISH CO. LTD.

941 Sherbrook St.

Winnipeg

Phone 22 331

WHOLESALE FISH MERCHANTS

FRESH-FROZEN & SMOKED FISH

IMPORTED HERRING

A. S. Bardal

Funeral Service

PHONE 27324-

Bardal Block

843 Sherbrook St. Winnipeg



CALL YOUR NEAREST
LOCATION



S-E-R-V-I-C-E Meat Market

621 Sargent at Maryland



QUALITY MEAT at LOWER PRICES

Free Delivery - Phone 80733



CONVENIENT, SAFE PAYABLE AT PAR

Protect yourself by sending your money this safe, convenient way. For ready cash while travelling, play safe with travellers' cheques. Obtainable at any Canadian National Railways station, express office or write

Canadian National Express
Money Order Dept.
360 McGill Street - Montreal



Don't

be like the
OSTRICH

about your Printing

CALL

VIKING PRINTERS

853 Sargent Ave.

Phone 24 185

Rumford

LAUNDERERS DRY CLEANERS

FUR STORAGE

Telephone 21 374

MISS AIRLINES 1950

"Miss airlines 1950", in a beauty contest for Stewardesses, that took place in London, England, in July, 1950, is a brown-eyed Icelandic beauty, Margrét Guðmundsdóttir, age 21. She was the youngest contestant and represented the smallest airline competing in the contest, which was organized by the Ministry of Civil Aviation. Runner-up was Danish, Birtha Lunn, 24. In third place was Simone Steen of Belgium.

★

The enrolment of day and residential schools operated for Indian children by the Indian Affairs Branch of the Dept. of Citizenship and Immigration has now reached a total of 22,000. In addition there are 1,000 Indian children attending provincial elementary schools.

★

ICELANDIC GIRL WINS DRESS DESIGNING CONTEST IN DENMARK

Last summer the "Damsk Familie Blad" featured a dress designing Contest, called the Dress of the Summer". About 30,000 entries were sent to the paper.

The winner is a young Icelandic girl Elen Guðnason 21 years of age, born in a small town of Give, in Jutland, her father, was born in Iceland,

he is a stone mason by trade, but his hobby is sculpture.

Ellen is employed as an office worker in Copenhagen, but her chief ambition is to become a dress designer, which, she seems to be well on her way in achieving.

DR. L. A. SIGURDSON

528 Medical Arts Bldg.

★

Office Ph. 94 762

Res. Ph. 72 409

J. J. SWANSON LTD.

* Rentals * Real Estate *
Insurance * Loans

308 AVENUE BLDG.

ANDREWS, ANDREWS, THORVALDSON & EGGERTSON

Attorneys

Bank of Nova Scotia Bldg.

Portage at Garry St.

Phone 98 291

